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# THE Wrestler

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# YOUR LETTERS

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## THUNDERBLOOD

I enjoyed your "Introducing" feature on Charlie "Thunderblood" Norris (July 1990). I have seen him wrestle several times, and he is really a fine athlete. There's no doubt in my mind that this man will go to a major federation and be very successful.

I'm not saying Norris will win a world title, but it wouldn't surprise me if he did. Just ask all the men who've faced him so far. I'm sure they'd tell you how good he is.

JERRY VIDEN
White Bear Lake, MN

## CALLOUS DISREGARD

Over the past couple of months, the wrestling world has done nothing but put down Mark Callous. Everyone thinks Sid Vicious is a better wrestler. I don't agree one bit.

Vicious is hailed because of his size, but size is all he's got going for him. He is just like Bam Bam Bigelow and Danny Spivey. When Bigelow and Spivey first came upon the scene, they were said to be the superstars of tomorrow. To date, they haven't accomplished a thing.

I don't see anything special in Vicious. He press-slams, clotheslines, and kicks. He is just a typical brawler.

But take a look at Callous. He is far more versatile. He can walk the ropes, he has a wide range of suplexes, and he moves around the ring with more ease than many other wrestlers. Callous isn't successful because of his size, but because of his skill. Take away Vicious' size and you have nothing.

If Callous is guided well, he will be a dominant force in the sport for a long time to come.

ROB ADZIMA
Trumbull, CT

"Mean" Mark Callous is a much better wrestler than Sid Vicious, writes reader Rob Adzima, because Callous possesses a wider variety of moves.

## DOOM'S DAY

How right you were in the article, "Teddy Long's Revitalized Doom: Unmasked And Unmerciful!" (July 1990). Just as I told all my friends, Long led Doom to the NWA World tag team title. Nobody believed they could beat the Steiners, but I did. I saw their potential, and I knew that Long was the missing ingredient. Woman didn't do anything for their careers. With Long, they became a new team.

Expect a long title reign for Ron Simmons and Butch Reed. Call them cheaters if you must, but don't deny

**Jimmy Valiant may not be in his prime, but he's giving Jerry Lawler one heck of a battle, proving that he still has some wrestling left in him, writes reader Jackie Newkirk.**

the fact they are a great team. After all, they have the belts, don't they?

WALTER MORGAN
Meridien, MS

## BOOGIE WOOGIE

Last year, if you'd have asked me who Jerry Lawler's main competition for the USWA title would be today, Jimmy Valiant is the last wrestler I would've named.

It's a real tribute to Valiant that he's been able to face—and beat—Lawler on several occasions.

Valiant may not look like much, but the events of the past few months prove that he still has what it takes to succeed in the sport.

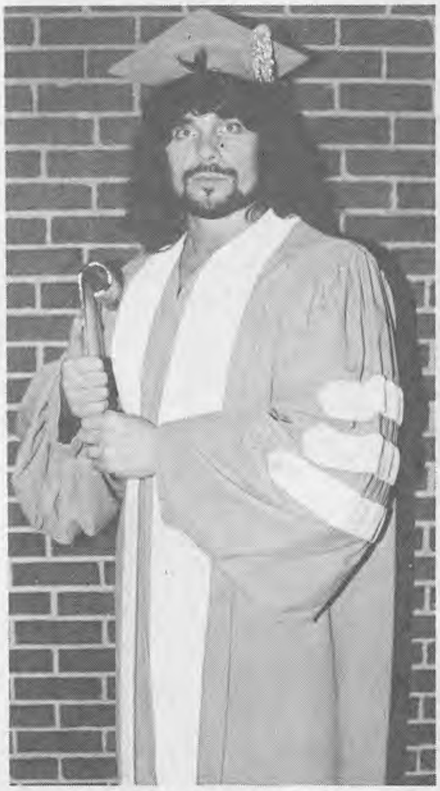
JACKIE NEWKIRK
Tampa, FL

## POETIC JUSTICE

Your poem about Lanny Poffo ("Lanny Poffo's Career Goes From Bad To Verse: Ode To A WWF 'Genius'" July 1990) cracked me up. Poffo hasn't amounted to much in the WWF. Hooray to Curt Hennig for dumping him and going with Bobby Heenan. I'll never understand what he was ever doing with Poffo.

At one time, Poffo was a halfway decent wrestler, but he seems to have lost his skills. Now all he cares about is that bad poetry of his. Each poem is worse than the one that came before it. He should quit writing and get back to wrestling. Then maybe he'll start winning some matches.

BARRY JOSEPHS
Bay City, MI



**Lanny Poffo is anything but a "genius," in the opinion of reader Barry Josephs. Barry wishes Poffo would concentrate more on wrestling and less on poetry.**

## LUGER'S CHALLENGES

After reading "My 10 Challenges To Ric Flair—By Lex Luger" (July 1990), I became convinced Luger doesn't know what he's talking about. There's no way Flair's going to accept any of those tests Luger has proposed, and Luger's just dreaming if he thinks otherwise.

It's obvious why Luger made these proposals: He can't beat Flair in the ring, where it counts. So he thinks up all these challenges in a futile effort to get attention. Give it up, Lex. Either win in the ring, or forget it!

NEIL OLDHAM
Frankfort, KY

## HONKY TONK BLUES

In his June 1990 "No Holds Barred," Dave Rosenbaum portrayed Greg Valentine as an imitating slimeball for copying The Honky Tonk Man. But I believe Honky Tonk Man is the one to attack.

Look at him. I think it is about time he beamed himself into the '90s. He should shave his sideburns, shape that chunk of hair on his head, and buy some new clothes. It wouldn't hurt to lose a few pounds, either.

Honky Tonk may be the original "Elvis in the ring," but is that something to be proud of? He believes in paying tribute to the "King," but I don't remember Elvis ever assaulting anyone with his guitar.

Let's face it: Elvis is dead and gone, and it is about time The Honky Tonk Man and his (few) fans got on

*(Continued on page 44)*

# WHAT'S HAPPENING!

**By BILL APTER**

**Hulk Hogan may soon be making a second movie, according to a report in the New York *Daily News.* In 1989, the "Hulkster" starred in *No Holds Barred.***

TWO-TIME FORMER WWF World champion **Hulk Hogan** may soon be returning to the silver screen. According to the May 27 edition of the New York *Daily News,* Hogan is being considered to star in an action movie that is scheduled to go into production later this year.

Movie producer **Bob Kaufman** is planning a new film called *Ugh!,* in which Hogan is slated to star. The newspaper claimed that Kaufman called Hogan "totally underrated" by the film industry, comments that probably stem from the poor critical reaction to *No Holds Barred,* Hogan's starring vehicle that was released last year. The new film will be distributed by New Line Cinema, the same company that released Hogan's earlier film.

Currently, Hogan is out of action nursing rib and sternum injuries suffered in an attack by **Earthquake** on May 15 in La Crosse, Wisconsin. According to some reports, Hogan is mulling over the possibility of doing some acting assignments until his injuries heal enough for him to make a full-time

*(Continued on page 48)*

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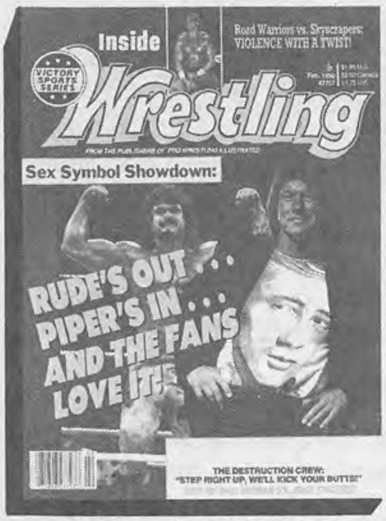


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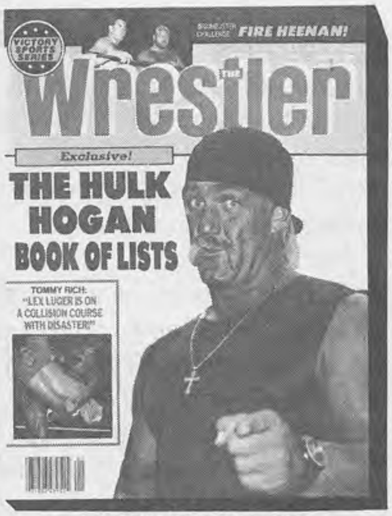


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# NO HOLDS BARRED

with David Rosenbaum

Barry Windham is back in the Horsemen fold, and Ric Flair wants to make sure he fits the mold. Blackjack Mulligan, Windham's father, is not too pleased with his son's re-entry into the rulebreaking cooperative.

BARRY WINDHAM IS nothing like his father.

"Well, maybe I am a bit smarter," Blackjack Mulligan said, "but maybe not. At least I had the sense to never join The Four Horsemen. My boy's gone and done it twice. Can't be in the genes, that's for sure."

Twice.

Barry Windham, whose career took a sharp turn downstream when he joined the Horsemen the first time, is back in the fold.

What is this guy thinking?

"I'm thinking about my career," Windham said. "Ric, Ole, Arn, and Sid—they're the kind of friends everybody wants to have, and I'm just fortunate that they invited me along for the ride once again. I was happy to join them."

Blackjack Mulligan, however, is not a happy man.

"A man wants the best for his sons," Blackjack said. "My problem now is that Kendall can't decide what he wants, and Barry wants the wrong things. Sometimes you've just gotta let kids do what they want to do, you know, give 'em space to grow, that kind of thing. But sometimes a father wonders whether he did right by his children."

Blackjack Mulligan, however, shouldn't doubt himself. He is, quite clearly, one of the most courageous wrestlers that ever lived. And although he didn't always go by the book, he at least followed his own rules to the letter.

"That's what worries me the most about Barry and Kendall," Blackjack said. "They don't seem to *have* any set of rules. Either that, or they just go on breaking them."

Kendall, who is wrestling in the PWF, has switched back and forth between rulebreaker and fan favorite several times. And Barry is constantly changing his career course (prior to his rejoining the Horsemen, he was floundering in the WWF as the "Widowmaker").

Not surprisingly, both men have an explanation for their actions.

"I was wrong when I was with Robert Fuller," Kendall said. "I'll admit that. But I've found myself again, and I don't intend to let go."

"I haven't changed a bit," Barry said. "My style's always been the same. It's just that I'll have more of a chance to do what I want now that I'm with the Horsemen."

But wasn't it only a few years ago that Windham was battling Flair to the limit in those legendary 90-minute matches? He was the top contender to the NWA World title, a man on the verge of greatness.

"I was all ready for the celebration," Blackjack Mulligan said. "It would've been a blast. That's something his old man never did, and it would've been nice to have a world champion in the family. Now I don't know that it will ever happen."

*(Continued on page 50)*

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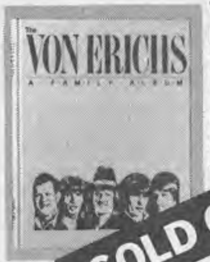


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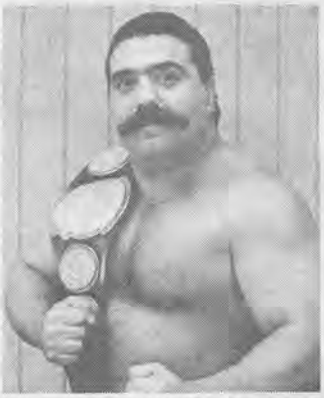
# BLINDSIDED

BY BOB SMITH

THERE IS JUST so much happening in the sport right now, it's hard for me to concentrate on just one topic this time out. With that in mind, here are some random ramblings about what's been going on:

You'll read all about **El Gigante** in the "Introducing" feature on page 18, but after seeing him up close, I have to agree with all the hype: This is the man who's going to make everybody forget about **Andre the Giant**, **John Studd**, and all the other big men of the past. Not only is Gigante big—make that *huge*—but he has great athletic ability as well. I can't wait to see him lock up with people like **Sid Vicious** and **Bam Bam Bigelow**.

My vote for most improved independent federation of the year goes to Georgia All-Star Wrestling, which used to be known as Southern Championship Wrestling. That's mainly because the organization finally has a champion, **"Powerhouse" Nick Busick**, who's truly a rising star. The 275-pound Busich could be the strongest man in the sport. He is much more powerful than the hyper-hyped **Dino Bravo**, and possibly even **The Ultimate Warrior**.


*"Powerhouse" Nick Busick*

Speaking of my buddy the Warrior, he's been having a harder time than anyone expected keeping his WWF World title away from new Intercontinental titlist **Curt Hennig**. Meanwhile, **Rick Rude** has been working out like a demon. He's more serious than anyone has ever seen him before, and he's even given up his "Rude Awakening" smooches with ringside beauties. Meanwhile, Warrior rambles on and on about rocket ships and inner beings and anything else than enters his warped cranium. Personally, I'm picking Rude to cleanly pin The Ultimate Narcissist the next time they face each other.

I'm glad to see the LPWA reach the acceptance level that it has attained thus far. **Susan Sexton** has proved to be a far better champion than most experts gave her a chance of being, and she has some excellent challengers in **Tina Moretti**, **Shelly Francis**, and **Black Venus**. And the LPWA's tag team champions, **Misty Blue Simmes** and **Heidi Lee Morgan**, are an incredibly exciting duo to watch. It will be interesting to see how well this organization fares when it makes its first nationwide tour, which is expected to begin this fall.

The USWA is trying to end its rulebreaking problem by adding a bunch of new regulations, such as the "technical loss" rule, and it's quite a novel idea. But why can't President **Max Andrews** do something about the shenanigans of rotund rat **Ronnie Gossett**? I have yet to see Gossett stand at ringside for a match without getting directly involved, either physically or by passing foreign objects. Doesn't the USWA believe in scanning videotape? If they did, Gossett would have been banned from the federation long ago.

How Far They Have Fallen Department: Speaking of Gossett, why would a man with as much talent as **Jerry Lawler** stoop to using the porky patriarch as his manager? Why has "The King" now abandoned his wrestling skills in favor of using chains and throwing fire? In one recent match, even **Jimmy Valiant** applied more actual holds than Lawler, and that's pretty pathetic. Just a year ago, I believed that Lawler was a genuine great. Now I'm not so sure he even qualifies to be called a wrestler.

In the space of two weeks, promising youngster **Jonnie Stewart** wrestled in the AWA, NWA, and USWA. Now you know why compiling ratings is the hardest job at *The Wrestler*.

Finally, here's proof that the impossible *can* happen: **Bill Mulkey**, long the whipping boy of NWA wrestlers and fans, has a title! The blond battler is now the Central Wrestling Federation's National champion. He's certainly come a long way from getting battered every week on TV. Did somebody say Mulkey-mania's running wild? □

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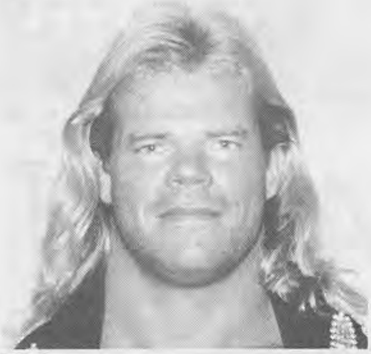
# Thumbs Up

**Each issue, *The Wrestler* will praise the noteworthy and damn those who violate the honor of wrestling. The praiseworthy receive a Thumbs Up, the disgraceful are marked with a Thumbs Down. Here is this month's roll of honor and shame.**



*Thumbs Up* to Lex Luger. He doesn't have the NWA World title, but at least he has his pride. Some things are just as important as the gold belt. At least Luger wrestled with honor on the NWA's Capital Combat card. That's more than we can say about Ric Flair, who once again called upon his henchmen to save his title. Luger is a fine wrestler and his day will eventually come. He must be patient. One day, Luger will catch Flair in an inescapable situation and glory will be his.

*Thumbs Up* to Max Andrews. The USWA president acted properly when he suspended Kerry Von Erich for striking matchmaker John Brazzel during a May 11 match in Dallas. Sure, Von Erich has a nearly flawless record, but rules are rules. Federations must take strict measures to ensure the safety of their officials. And Von Erich should realize that his hands are dangerous weapons; he must care for them as he would a loaded gun.

*Thumbs Up* to Roddy Piper. Yes, it is possible for a man to juggle two careers at once . . . especially when he's as talented as the "Rowdy Scot." Movies? No problem. Randy Savage? No problem. Some people have to make choices in life. Piper just goes on living, doing what he loves most, defying the rules that everyone else has to live by. His recent victories over Savage have been simply spectacular! How does he do it? Savage must be thinking the same thing!

*Thumbs Up* to Abdullah the Butcher. Anyone can change; Abdullah is living proof. Once one of the most hated men in the sport, Abdullah spent most of the past three months loyally teaming with Norman. Their battles against Kevin Sullivan's Slaughterhouse thrilled the fans. Of course, Abdullah is now gone from the NWA, but his stint alongside Norman demonstrated that even a madman from the Sudan can be on the right side. Take heart, fans: If Abdullah can change, there's hope for anyone.

# Thumbs Down

***Thumbs Down*** to Brother Love. This irreverent reverend, under the guise of a TV segment dedicated to love, has proven that there are no limits to how low a person can stoop. Insulting wrestlers is one thing; using the segment to ambush wrestlers is something else again. Of course, that's what Brother Love did when he interviewed Hulk Hogan and Jimmy Hart. Love knew that Earthquake was going to attack Hogan from behind. He shouldn't have hosted the carnage. He is a despicable man.

***Thumbs Down*** to John Tatum. When will this man ever learn that bringing beautiful blondes to ringside is the fastest road to destruction? And why must he go on depending on these women to bring him glory? First it was Missy Hyatt. When she was around, nobody cared about Tatum. Now it's Tessa, who helped Tatum win the USWA Southwestern title from Bill Dundee. Tatum's victory was tarnished, of course, and his title reign was brief, but there's one indisputable fact about Tatum: He can't be successful without the help of a woman's interference. Pity.

***Thumbs Down*** to Sid Vicious. The man Kerry Von Erich once called "the most awesome man I've ever wrestled" is also one of the stupidest. Why else would he join The Four Horsemen, a move that is sure to hinder his promising career? Vicious is surely a threat to Ric Flair's NWA World title. But as a Horseman, Vicious will never get a shot at Flair (we all know what happened to Sting). His promise of greatness will never be fulfilled. Vicious is being used by this evil clique. Wake up, Sid, before it's too late!

***Thumbs Down*** to Jerry Lawler. Is his rulebreaking irreversible? Will we ever again see the Lawler that thrilled sellout crowds and was loved by the fans? Apparently not. Lawler has used chains, fireballs, ether, and all manner of foreign objects handed to him by manager Ronald P. Gossett in his war against Jimmy Valiant. It is quite obvious that Lawler's respect for the rules no longer exists. He doesn't care how he spends his remaining years in the ring. Now we must wonder: Was he a fraud all along? What a horrible thought! □

# CORRESPONDENTS REPORTS

**Uniondale, NY** ***(Correspondent—Jason Croft):*** Two WWF main events at the Nassau Coliseum seemed to blend into one bout.

The first match pitted Sensational Sherri, manager of Randy Savage, against Dusty Rhodes' manager, Sapphire. Sherri, a former WWF and AWA World women's champion, totally outclassed Sapphire, pinning her easily after delivering a brutal beating.

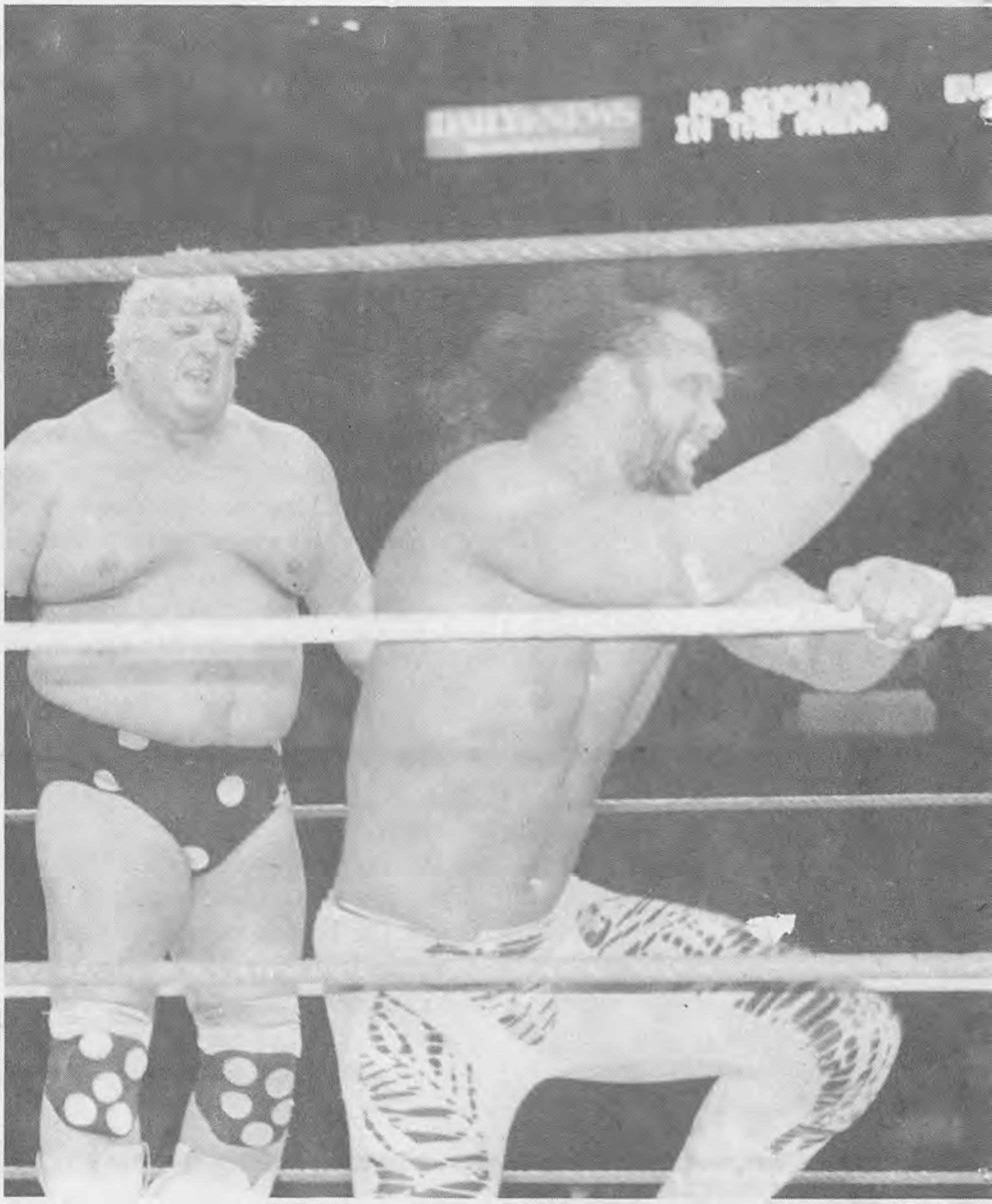
Toward the end of that match, though, Rhodes and Savage had come out to cheer on their respective managers. They would wind up getting in the ring and beating up each other before their own scheduled match began.

When the bell for the match finally did ring, Savage had the advantage, as Sherri kept running in and out of the ring with her loaded purse. At one point, Rhodes had Savage in a sleeper, but Sherri forced the break by hitting Dusty with the purse.

Finally, while the referee was distracted by Sapphire and Sherri, Dusty got the purse, smashed Savage with it, and pinned him.

In other bouts: Al Perez beat Jim Brunzell . . . Koko B. Ware beat Black Bart . . . Demolition

*(Continued on page 52)*




**Dusty Rhodes has been getting the better of Randy Savage in their series of bouts. An encounter at Nassau Coliseum in New York was no exception.**

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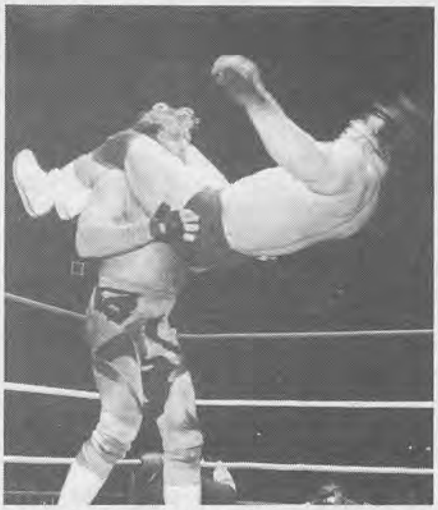
# YOU ASKED US

**This is the monthly feature that answers ALL your most important questions about the mat sport, the stars, and the feuds. Send us your most perplexing queries and we'll have them answered for you by the world's finest grapplers and most insightful mat reporters. Address your questions to: YOU ASKED US, c/o THE WRESTLER, P.O. Box 48, Rockville Centre, NY 11571.**

Q: "I have a question for Scott Steiner: I think your 'Frankensteiner' is the most innovative and beautiful move in wrestling. Could you please explain what happens to your opponent when this move is executed?"—Greg Evans, Marshfield, MO

A: **"I'm very proud of the 'Frankensteiner,' Greg," replied Steiner. "Believe me, I enjoy using this maneuver as much as the fans seem to like watching it. The effects of this move are twofold, really. First, I jump as high as I can in the air**



Scott Steiner executes his spectacular and popular "Frankensteiner" maneuver on Michael Hayes.

**and grab the opponent with my legs in a headscissors. That takes the guy right out of his game plan right there, because I try to hit him with it before he figures out what happened. Then, while he's in a daze, I fall straight back and hit the mat arms-first, which makes the guy do a complete 360 in the air before he hits the canvas. The guy is usually so confused and shaken by that point—and he's hurting quite a bit, too—that I can pin him right away. I think it's one of the best finishers in wrestling. I know it hasn't let me down yet."**

***

Q: "My question is for Tony Atlas: You've held the ICW title for more than a year, now. Who would you say the toughest opponent for your belt has been?"—Boyce Johansen, Arvada, CO

A: **"Ain't no tough competition in the ICW at all," growled Atlas. "Ever since I won this belt back in February of 1989, I've taken on everybody in the ICW one at a time. Vic Steamboat? He's a pale imitation of his older brother, Rick. The Rochester Roadblock? He's big, but he's a creampuff. Phil Apollo? Don't make me laugh. None of those guys ever offered me any competition, but I'd have to say the most *persistent* of all my challengers has been Joe Savoldi. At least he keeps comin' after me after getting his butt whipped every time. But nobody's been able to come close to beatin' me, and nobody ever will."**

***

Q: "I have a question for Jimmy Garvin of The Freebirds: Where is your valet and wife, Precious? In my opinion, no woman in wres-

*(Continued on page 54)*

Tony Atlas has been ICW champion for more than a year, and he scoffs at the quality of competition he faces. Still, he does profess some respect for Joe Savoldi.

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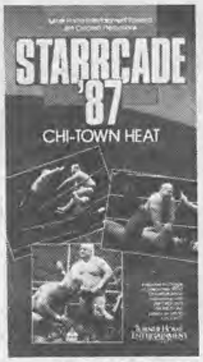


### #8 STARRCADE '87 Chi-Town Heat

The hottest Thanksgiving Day in Windy City history! CAGE MATCH THRILLERS: Ric Flair challenges NWA champ Ronnie Garvin; Dusty Rhodes takes on U.S. champ Lex Luger. PLUS: Road Warriors vs. Blanchard & Anderson; Koloff vs. Taylor; Rock 'n' Rolls vs. Midnights on a scaffold; Williams vs. Windham; Garvin, Hayes, & Sting vs. Gilbert, Zbyszko, & Steiner.
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### #1 GREAT AMERICAN BASH '88 The Price For Freedom

Controversy reigned supreme during the annual summer Bash tour as Ric Flair and Lex Luger went at it in Baltimore. Also: Rhodes vs. Windham for U.S. title; triple-cage "Tower of Doom" featuring Russian Assassin I, Ivan Koloff, Perez, Rotundo, & Sullivan vs. Road Warriors, Garvins, & Williams; Fantastics vs. Midnights; Blanchard & Anderson vs. Nikita Koloff & Sting.
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### #2 GREAT AMERICAN BASH '89 The Glory Days

Revenge was the theme of the 1989 Bash as NWA champ Ric Flair came back from a broken neck to wrestle former champ Terry Funk, and U.S. champ Lex Luger battled Rick Steamboat. Also: Sting vs. Muta; War Games; a battle of wits turns to a battle of fists as Paul E. Dangerously rumbles with Jim Cornette; plus much more.
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### #3 WRESTLE WAR '89 Music City Showdown

Ric Flair's courageous effort in regaining the NWA belt from Rick Steamboat on May 7, 1989, in Nashville was voted Match of the Year—some called it the Match of the Decade! Also on this memorable card, Lex Luger battles Michael Hayes; Road Warriors clash with Mike Rotundo & Steve Williams; and more.
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### #9 STARRCADE '86 The Sky-Walkers

So big it had to be held in two locations—The Omni in Atlanta and the Greensboro Coliseum in North Carolina. Highlights include: NWA champ Ric Flair vs. Nikita Koloff; Road Warriors vs. Midnights on a scaffold; "First Blood" match—Rhodes vs. Blanchard; Ron Garvin vs. Big (Bossman) Bubba; Rock 'n' Rolls vs. Andersons in cage; Jones vs. Valiant—hair vs. hair.
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### #7 WRESTLE WAR '90 Wild Thing

Lex Luger could have won the NWA World title from Ric Flair, but saving Sting from a crippling attack from the Andersons took priority! On this night, Luger showed the fans just what's inside the "Total Package." Also: Steiners vs. Andersons, Road Warriors vs. Skyscrapers, more.
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### #10 STARRCADE '88 True Gritt

The sixth annual Starrcade event, the first under the Ted Turner banner, thrilled a sellout crowd at The Scope in Virginia. Featured: Lex Luger's challenge of Ric Flair; Road Warriors vs. Sting & Rhodes; Windham vs. Bigelow; Rotundo vs. Rick Steiner; Midnights vs. Midnights; and more.
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# INTRODUCING

# EL GIGANTE

TALK ABOUT BIG news . . .

Even when Turner Broadcasting System announced the purchase of NWA in October 1988, TBS President and Chairman of the Board Ted Turner was nowhere to be seen. In fact, the only time Turner has been seen in the presence of his wrestlers was when *The Wrestler's* sister publication *Wrestling 90* posed the billionaire with World champion Ric Flair for a cover shot.

It would take something awfully big to entice Turner to clear his busy schedule again. Is 7'7" big enough?

At a press conference in Atlanta attended by reporters and photographers from around the world, Turner personally unveiled to the world El Gigante, the man many are already hailing as the most incredible giant wrestling has ever seen.

"Nobody better mess with me now," Turner said with a smile.

There were a lot of smiling faces at the press conference. NWA officials feel they have discovered a unique talent who might not only be a financial boon to the organization, but also help restore order to a federation that is presently being dominated by

*(Continued on page 56)*

**Ted Turner, owner of the NWA, introduces El Gigante to the press. The 7'7" former basketball star from Argentina has quickly allied himself with Sting in a quest to save the NWA from The Four Horsemen.**

**Who's the biggest man in the sport? Before you say Andre the Giant, take a look at El Gigante. At 7'7", Gigante is now the largest individual to ever set foot in a wrestling ring. This former Argentinian basketball star now has his sights set on helping Sting rid the NWA of The Four Horsemen!**

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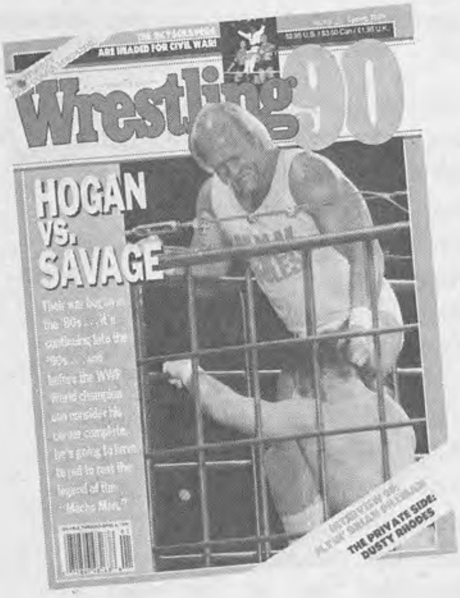


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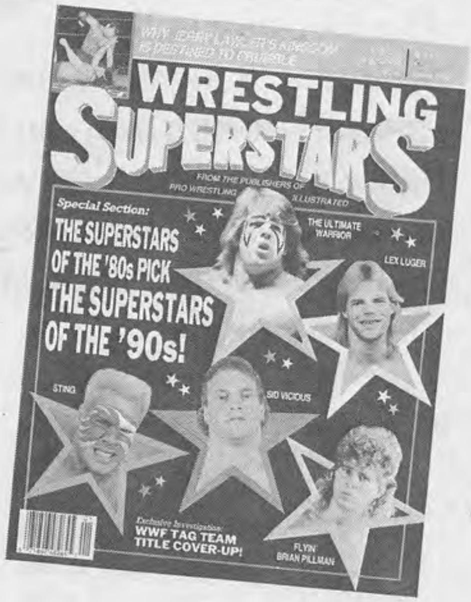


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# Q&A

**Each month, *The Wrestler* will present a "Question and Answer" forum with an important figure in the wrestling world. It is your chance to meet wrestling's biggest stars as they answer the questions uppermost in the fans' minds**

**Q:** I have to start this interview off by asking how you're feeling. I understand you were in pretty rough shape before your match against Flair, and now you're back in the hospital. Can we expect you to be out of action for an extended period?

**A: No way! I'm going to be fine. This kind of infection is a pretty tedious thing, because once it sets in you've got to just lay back and wait for it to run its course. But I'm making good progress, and I should be back in the ring before long. I'd better, because I think I'll go crazy if I have to stay in this crummy bed much longer.**

**Q:** And the ending of that "Capital Combat" event would be enough to drive *anybody* a little crazy. That had to be one of the wildest things I've ever seen. I never would have dreamed that the Horsemen would find a way to interfere in a steel cage match!

**A: Incredible, isn't it? Just when I**

Lex Luger attempts to intimidate Ric Flair with a muscular pose during their cage encounter at "Capital Combat '90." Luger thought there would be no way for Flair to escape.

# LEX LUGER

*WHEN LEX LUGER signed for a cage match against six-time NWA World champion Ric Flair at "Capital Combat '90" on May 19 in Washington, D.C., it was supposed to be the last time Luger would ever challenge Flair for the title. Luger insisted that if Flair could defeat him cleanly, he would be out of Flair's blond hair forever.*

*Luger had good reason to be confident of victory. In the months preceding the pay-per-view event, Luger had pinned Flair in two non-title cage matches. And even though he was suffering from a serious staph infection in his right knee, Luger knew that there would be no interference by The Four Horsemen to prevent him from pinning Flair's shoulders to the canvas once again.*

*He couldn't have been more wrong. Although Luger dominated Flair, the Horsemen struck again: When Ole Anderson electronically raised the cage, Barry Windham and Arn Anderson attacked the challenger, causing Flair's disqualification. To make matters worse, the Horsemen worked over Luger's right leg, sending him back to a Washington hospital for further treatment.*

*Associate Editor Bob Smith traveled to the nation's capital to speak to the bedridden Luger just two days after the ill-fated match. Luger seemed eager to talk about the strange circumstances of "Capital Combat '90."*

---

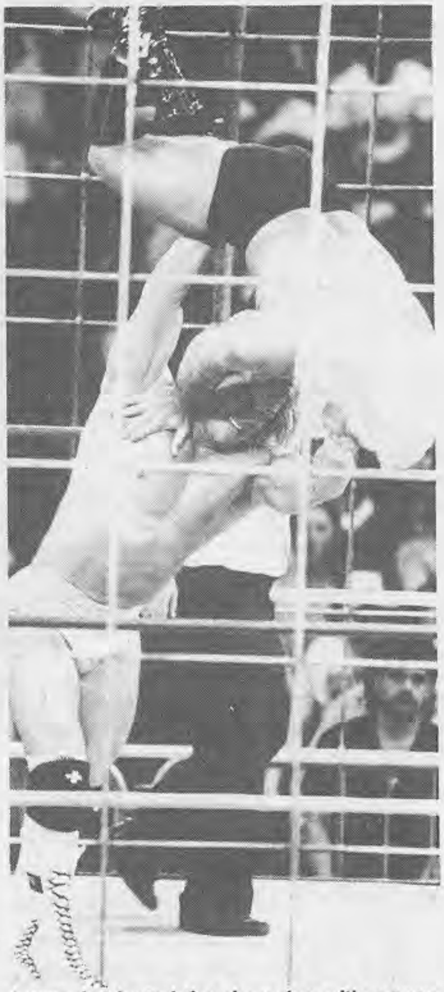
**thought I had Flair exactly where I wanted him, the Horsemen sabotaged me *again*. This is really getting pretty old, isn't it? I mean, how can Flair look at the fans and call himself a champion when he never wins matches on his own? He was actually *proud* of the fact that he lost that match by disqualification. What a total loser! He's got to be the most embarrassing champion in the history of this sport.**

Q: Why do you say that?

A: **Because he totally relies on others to accomplish things for him. Look at the facts. When Ric lost the NWA title to Rick Steamboat in 1989, the Horsemen had dissolved. There wasn't anybody around to help him out of trouble, so he lost, and he kept losing for months. Flair could never make it by trying to wrestle in a fair one-on-one fashion. That's why he and his Horsemen cronies attacked Sting and put him out of action for months. And that's why they blindsided me, but I'm happy to report they didn't get the job done.**

Q: How disappointed are you that this particular match went up in smoke? It seems like a remote possibility that Flair will ever grant you another match in a steel cage.

A: ***(pauses)* I suppose it doesn't even matter if he does or if he doesn't. That cage was the same one they used during the Thunderdome match at "Halloween Havoc" last year. There's no door in the thing, and it has a roof so that nobody can climb in or out. When they lowered that thing down over us, I remember thinking that this was the best chance for winning the NWA World title that I would ever have. So who would ever suspect that Ole Anderson would gain control of the device that was raising and lowering the cage? When Windham attacked me, I couldn't believe what was happening. It just wasn't supposed to be that way. That's why the outcome of that match hurts me much more than this knee injury ever could. I had Flair up in the "torture rack," and he was mine. Once again, he was screaming his head off, he was in so much pain. And once again, Windham and the Andersons turned my dreams into dust.**



Luger dominated the champion with maneuvers like this press-slam. Before the match, Luger said that if Flair pinned him cleanly, he wouldn't ask for another match.

Q: So I have to assume that your claim that you'd never ask for a World title match again has now been forgotten?

A: **Are you kidding? I'm gonna hound Flair like never before. If you remember, I said I would never ask for a title match again if Flair could *pin me cleanly*. Did he even come close to doing that? Absolutely not. But right now, I'm so angry I don't know which of the Horsemen I'd like to get my hands on first. Maybe I ought to get a match against that creep Windham, because he was the guy who disrupted my match. Or maybe I should go after Arn, that sawed-off runt. Or maybe I can put an**

**end to all these stories that Sid Vicious is the most impressive new big man around today. Just give me a Horsemen—any of 'em. My perspective has changed quite a bit now.**

Q: In what way?

A: **The Horsemen are unlike any other wrestlers in the world. I ought to know—I was part of the organization at one point. They would do just about anything to prevent a loss back when I was in the group. But now, they're worse than they've ever been. Not only are they concerned with trying to win all their matches, but they're trying to cripple people while they do it. Look at what they did to Sting, and look at what they've tried to do to me. But I swear, I can't let them get away with it any longer. Maybe *I* shouldn't be content just to win. Maybe I should show them how sadistic *I* can get.**

Q: Does this mean that winning the title has become a secondary goal to injuring the Horsemen?

A: **Almost, but not quite. My hatred for the Horsemen is very strong, and I'd love to devote all of my attention to running them out of the NWA. But to ignore the fact that there's an NWA World title that's primed to be won would be an insult to both myself and the fans. The way I look at it, I am the heir apparent to the World belt. I've pinned the champion twice. As long as there is strength left in my body, I'll continue to take on Flair. I think I deserve it, and I know that fans would love to see me win that title, too.**

Q: Speaking of the fans, they've really been rallying behind you since you've started your pursuit of Flair. You're probably the NWA's most popular wrestler right now.

A: ***(pauses, smiles)* Well, I really have to think that Sting has a lot to do with that. That guy really has been an inspiration to me during the past few months. When he came out on a pair of crutches to give me moral support back at Wrestle War '90 in February, he practically shocked the pants off me. There was a guy that I'd had a really hard series of matches against, and here he was coming to my support like nothing had ever happened. He's truly a great individual, and if some of his greatness has rubbed off on me, I'm glad.**

When Barry Windham entered the cage and prevented Luger from pinning Flair, it preempted another sure title victory for the "Total Package." Nevertheless, Luger maintains that he is still the number-one contender to the World title, and as such remains deserving of title matches.

Q: Pretty soon, Sting will be back in action after fully recovering from his ruptured left patella. Naturally, he's going to want some matches with Flair, because the Horsemen were instrumental in putting him out of action. When Sting's ready, would you be willing to step aside to allow him to get World title

matches against Flair?

**A:** **That's a very interesting question. Everybody knows that Sting, if he's 100 percent healthy, is capable of winning the NWA title. By the same token, however, I feel that I've truly earned my position as the number-one contender. Don't forget about those non-title victories over Flair, as well as my status as the U.S. champion. Hopefully, this is one question I'll never have to answer, because I sure as hell should be able to beat Flair by the time Sting returns, anyway.**

**Q:** But what if you haven't?

**A:** **Well, I'll worry about that when the time comes. Right now, I have to keep my mental outlook sharp. All I'm thinking about are Flair and the Horsemen. The important thing right now is that I do well against them.**

**Q:** It looks like you'll have all the help you'll need if you want it. In addition to Sting, Rick and Scott Steiner have some old scores to settle with the Andersons. El Gigante, that massive rookie, would also like to get a piece of Sid Vicious. Even Junkyard Dog has been setting his sights on various Horsemen.

**A:** **That's great. It's pretty damn hard to defeat four or five guys at once. You can be the greatest wrestler in the world, but you just can't beat off a horde of top wrestlers at once. And I want those guys to know that if they're ever in trouble against the Horsemen, that I'll be there to back them up. And hopefully, they'd do the same thing for me. I think I've earned at least that much.**

**Q:** And you've earned my gratitude as well. Thanks for this interview under some pretty rugged circumstances.

**A:** **Hey, the next time you do an interview in a hospital, it will be Flair answering the questions. Meanwhile, I'll be healthy, wealthy, and the NWA World champion. That's the only scenario that I'll be satisfied with.** □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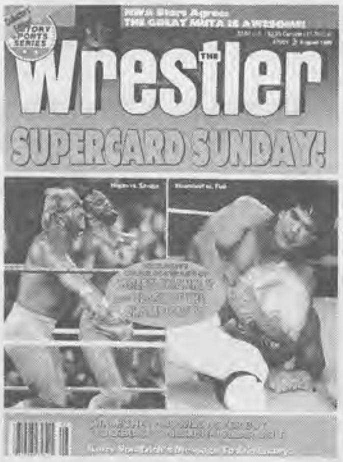


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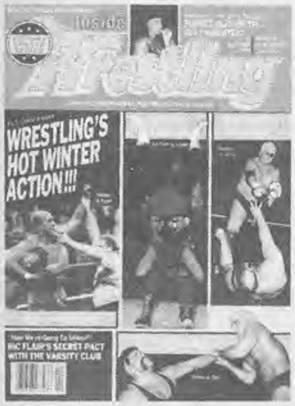


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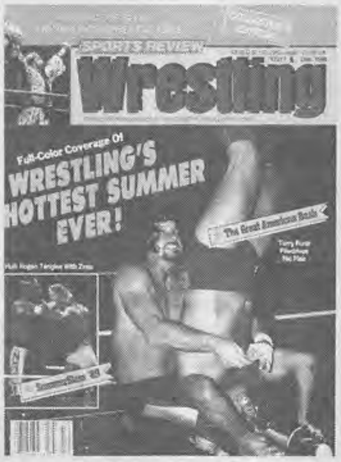


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Wrestler

# SPOT LiGHTS...

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## PAUL ORNDORFF

*AFTER A TWO-YEAR absence from the sport, "Mr. Wonderful" Paul Orndorff is back. He could have remained in retirement (he owns a successful business in Atlanta), but Orndorff says he missed the day-to-day competition.*

*"Wrestling is in my blood," he said. "I always knew, deep-down, that I could beat any champion in the sport. My pride told me that I couldn't stay out for long. I had to come back and prove to the people I still have what it takes to be a winner."*

*A former professional football player, Orndorff first achieved fame as a wrestler in his home state of Florida. In 1979, he teamed with Jimmy Snuka to win the NWA World tag team title. Eventually, though, they ended up feuding.*

*In Georgia, Orndorff won the National title three times and challenged Ric Flair for the NWA World title. Unable to defeat Flair, Orndorff went to the WWF, where he allied himself with Roddy Piper and Bobby Heenan. It was there that fans took to calling the arrogant Orndorff "Paula."*

*"Boy, those chants really got me riled up," he recalls. "But maybe it backfired on the fans; I used to take my anger out on my opponent."*

*In the main event of the first WrestleMania, in 1985, Orndorff and Piper lost to Hulk Hogan and Mr. T. Soon afterward, Orndorff split with Piper, fired Heenan, and became friends with Hogan.*

**"Mr. Wonderful" Paul Orndorff is back in the NWA, site of many triumphs early in his career. Though now a fan favorite, Orndorff has been most successful as a rulebreaker.**

*But in 1986, Orndorff shocked the wrestling world by turning against the "Hulkster," an act that resulted in an intense series of matches. One of the most notable took place in Toronto in front of more than 70,000 fans. "Mr. Wonderful" did not win the WWF World title, but he calls the feud—and that match in particular—a high point in his career.*

*"I took the WWF World champion to the limit night after night," Orndorff boasts. "Maybe I didn't pin him, but I came damn close. Closer than most. Ask Hogan and he'll tell you the same thing."*

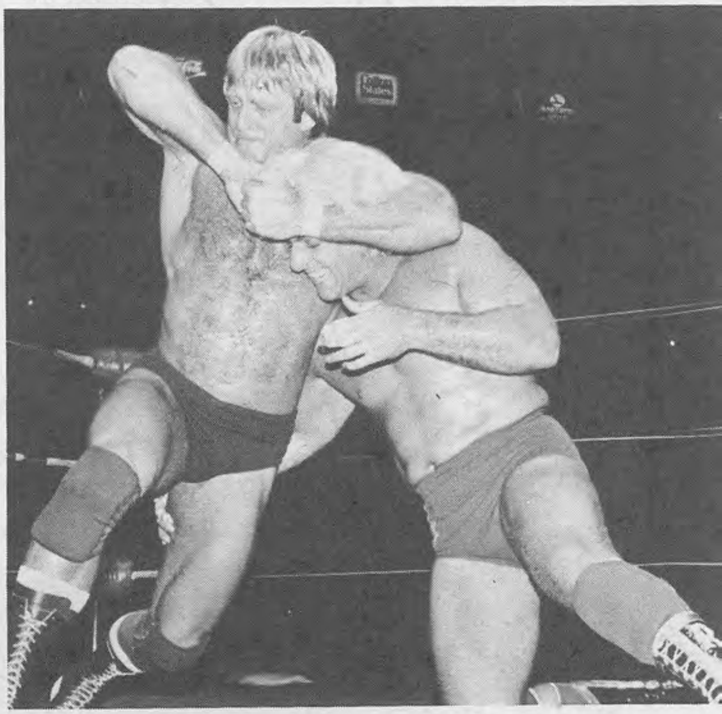
*In 1987, Orndorff dropped out of the sport entirely to devote more time to his business interests. But the ring action called him back and, on November 17, 1989, in Highland Heights, Ohio, he made his return by defeating Kerry Von Erich by disqualification.*

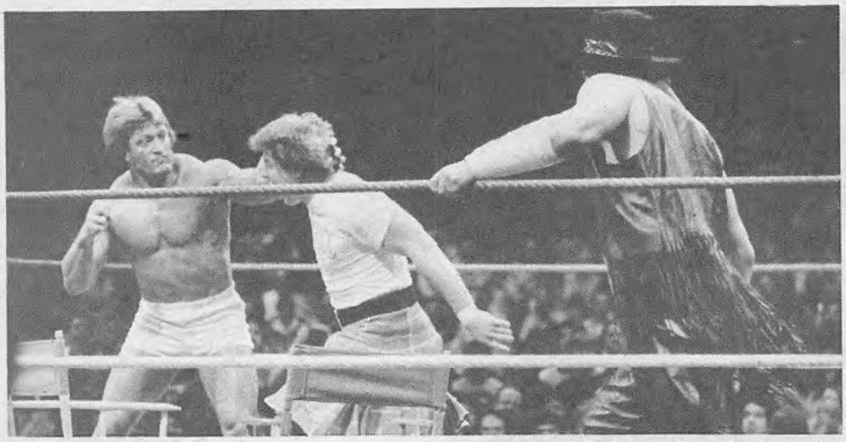
*"Poor Kerry didn't know what to expect," Orndorff said. "When he saw my name on the contract, he turned white as a ghost. Well, it shows you how great I am, if I can come back after almost two years off and beat a fine wrestler like Kerry."*

*After several months on the independent circuit, Orndorff began wrestling in the NWA again. "I'd love to get another crack at Flair's title. As good as he is, I think I can figure out a way to beat him. As long as the Horsemen don't interfere, I'd have a fighting chance."*

*With Orndorff back in the national spotlight,* **The Wrestler** *focuses its own "Spotlight" on the highlights of a wonderful career.* □

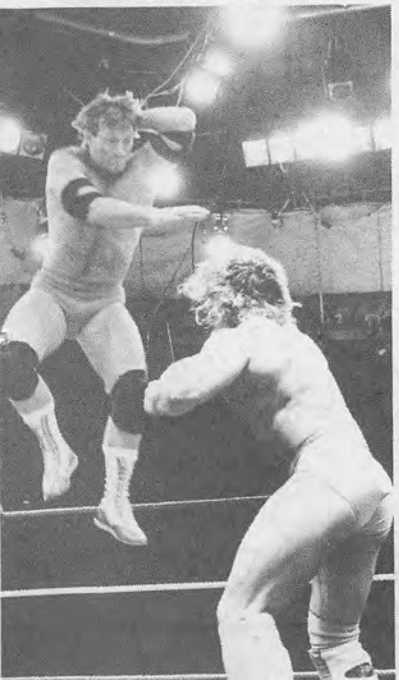
July 1982: Orndorff feuds with Jimmy Snuka (left). August 1982: "Mr. Wonderful" battles Ric Flair for the NWA World title (below).





May 1985: Orndorff turns against his tag team partner Roddy Piper (above). November 1989: He returns to the ring against Kerry Von Erich (below left). April 1990: Kamala and Orndorff battle on the independent circuit (below right).

August 1986: A then-record crowd in Toronto saw Orndorff face Hulk Hogan for the WWF World title (above).



# X-RAY

## THE WRESTLER PANEL EXAMINES

# DUSTY RHODES

**Each month THE WRESTLER'S panel of experts will offer their candid opinions of one of wrestling's stars. Whether an up-and- coming youngster or an established superstar in his own right, our panel will always be frank and honest without fear of reprisal**

Dusty Rhodes has Randy Savage on the ropes in their recent feud. Rhodes' recent domination of Savage has prompted the "X-Ray" panel to take another look at the "American Dream," a three-time former NWA World champion.

### CAPT. LOU ALBANO

"The 'American Dream' is my main man! He may be a little bit older and just a little heavier, but since when did a little extra poundage ever affect this guy? And I've got to admit that I like his new, colorful image. The polka dots do him proud, and his manager, Sapphire, is one of the gutsiest women I've ever seen in this sport. The man's legend grows with every passing day. I had my wars against him in the past, but now I'm honored to call Dusty my pal."

Capt. Lou Albano, long known as "The Guiding Light," has guided 13 tag teams to an unmatched 16 WWF World tag team titles.

### KILLER KOWALSKI

"I can't believe that after all the blood that Dusty spilled trying to make a name for himself that he'd ever become such a parody of his former greatness. Sure, you could always get on Rhodes' case because of the way he pandered to the idiot fans, but at least his matches were some of the toughest you'd ever see. But today, the 'old' Dusty seems like a forgotten memory. No toughness. No desire. He's a clown, and it hurts to see him go through the motions."

Killer Kowalski, one of the most sadistic rulebreakers in the sport's history, runs a wrestling school in Reading, Massachussetts.

### PROF. TORU TANAKA

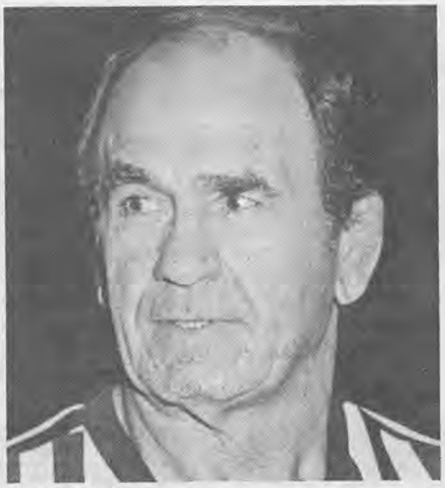
"This Rhodes is living on borrowed time. He once was one of the greatest wrestlers ever to compete in the United States, but today he is much too old and far too heavy. Look at what that accomplished grappler, Randy Savage, is doing to Rhodes now. He is teaching him a serious lesson in what it takes to be a successful wrestler in the '90s, but Rhodes' best years were in the '70s. It is time for Rhodes to retire before he shames himself beyond repair."

Prof. Tanaka, a three-time co-holder of the WWF World tag team title with Mr. Fuji, is currently a successful actor.

### LARRY HENNIG

"Rhodes is one of the few guys still around who was competing back in my era, and frankly he looks the same to me now as he did 20 years ago. I'll never forget the tag team that Dusty formed with Dick Murdoch, The Texas Outlaws. That was one of the roughest duos I've ever seen. Believe me, they would pound the tar out of most teams that are around today. Now, it's two decades later, but Dusty is still Dusty. You've gotta admire a guy like that."

Larry "The Ax" Hennig is a four-time former AWA World tag team champion; he held three of those titles with Harley Race.



### LOU THESZ

"From an athletic standpoint, it's obvious that Rhodes is not quite the wrestler he used to be. He seems to have gained a lot of weight, and even his 'bionic' elbowsmash doesn't deliver quite the impact that it used to. But you just can't take the intangibles away from this man. He's got a tremendous fighting heart, and he'll stop at nothing, even when the odds seem stacked against him. He's the ultimate winner, despite his shortcomings."

Lou Thesz held the NWA World title six times during his fabulous 50-year career. Many consider him the greatest all-around wrestler in history.

### JACK BRISCO

"Back during my two NWA title reigns from 1973 to 1975, Dusty was one of my closest friends in the world. At first, he was a brutal rulebreaker, but after he broke away from Gary Hart he became as popular as any wrestler could dream of being. And he's been a man of impenetrable integrity, never turning his back on the fans. There have been few men in the history of wrestling like Dusty. He's a hall of famer if there ever was one."

Jack Brisco is a two-time former NWA World champion, and a three-time former NWA World tag team champion with brother Jerry.

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# BILLY JACK-MANIAC!

By Bob Smith

HONOR, INTEGRITY, sportsmanship. There are very few men active in today's wrestling world that fans are able to count on to uphold the best traditions of scientific wrestling. Every day, knowing who the "clean" wrestlers are gets just a little bit harder.

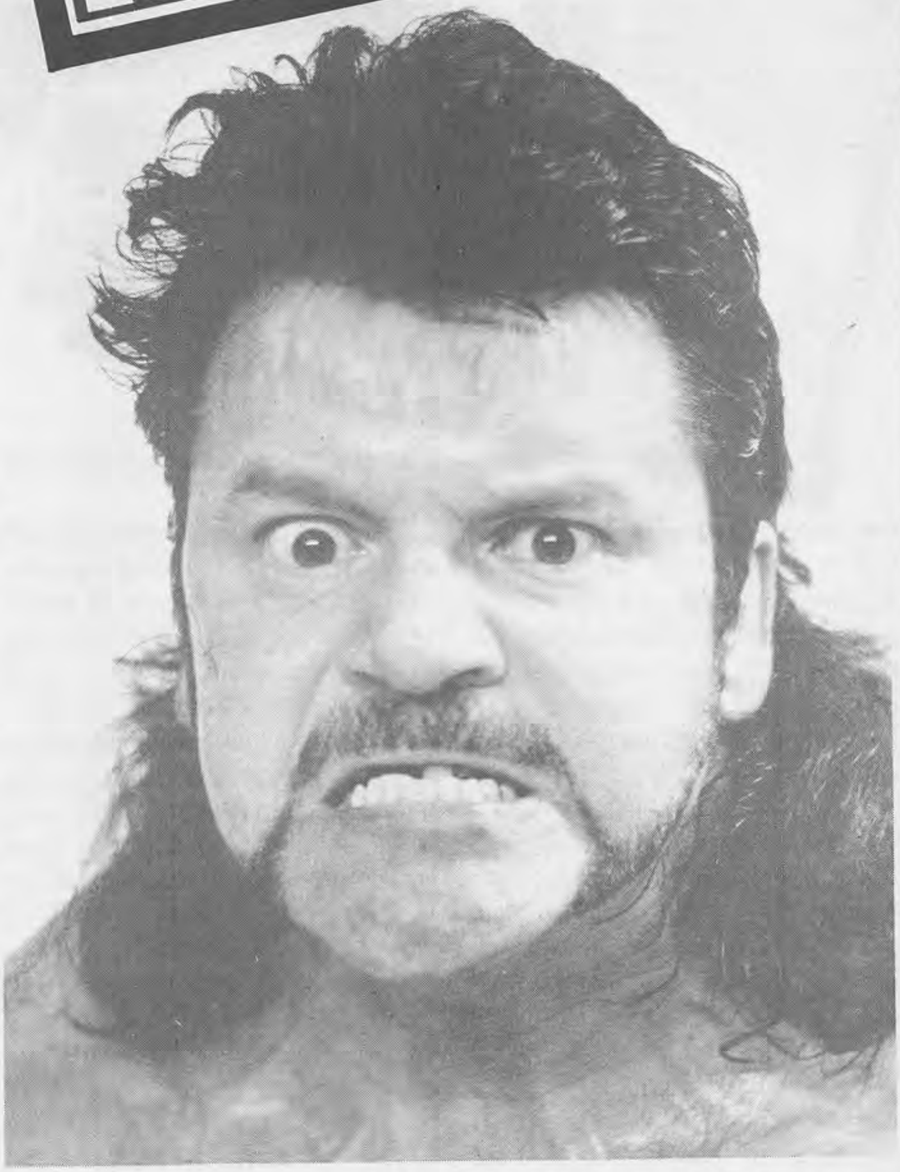
Thankfully, there are the perennials, men who would never forsake their fans under any circumstances. Hulk Hogan is one. Jeff Jarrett is another. And, of course, one can always look to Rick Steamboat and Kerry and Kevin Von Erich.

And, until recently, Billy Jack Haynes.

Since making his professional debut in 1981, Haynes has been proud of his own abilities, and even more proud of his home state of Oregon. Even after long stints in other federations, he would always find himself back in his hometown of Portland, wrestling for the fans that meant more to him than anything else in the world.

But today, Pacific Northwest fans wish that Haynes had never returned. Just listen to these comments from the formerly soft-spoken fan favorite:

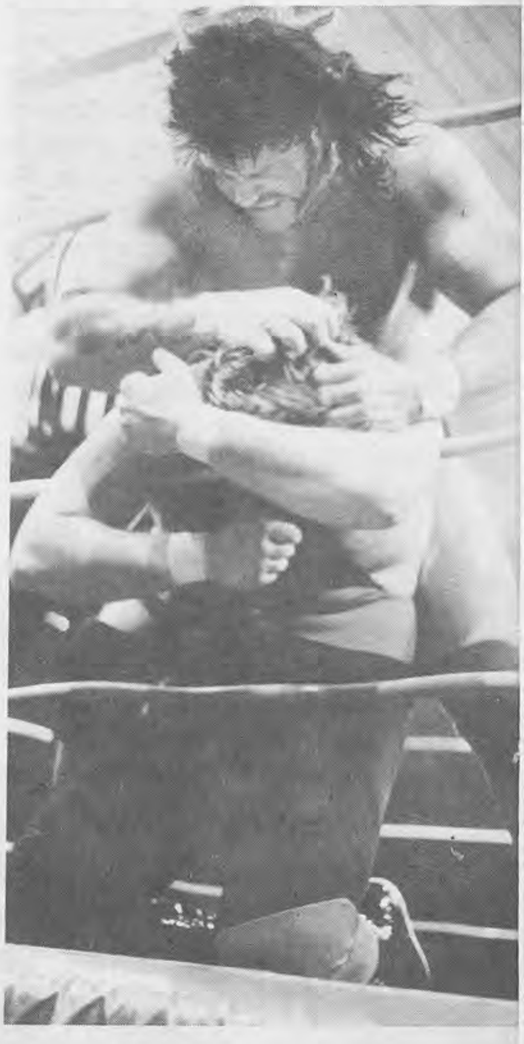
"Man, get a load of these geeks. Naturally, none of these people can afford to get into the matches, since they're all a bunch of welfare cases. They have to barter their food stamps at the ticket counter just to be able to get into the arena. What a bunch of losers! Makes



**For years, Billy Jack Haynes was one of the most beloved men in the sport. But one mistake has turned this man into a violently crazed rulebreaker who'll stop at nothing to cripple fan favorites. Can the Pacific Northwest recover from the assault of this vicious animal?**

*Photos by Garrett Miller*

Haynes whacks Larry Oliver with a kendo stick (left), attacks him during an interview (above), and assaults him in the ring (below). Haynes mistakenly thought Oliver had hit him with a garbage can, when The Grappler was the actual culprit.



me embarrassed to be a wrestler."

And that's not the worst of Haynes' shocking change of attitude. Now, when Haynes enters the ring, winning is secondary. He's become a maniacal crippler, particularly where Rip and Larry Oliver are concerned.

"The Olivers are history," said a vehement Haynes. "For years, Rip Oliver was one of the cruelest rulebreakers in the PNW, and I fought against him in some of the bloodiest matches I've ever been a part of. But now, these rube fans want to cheer his every move. Idiots! Well, I'm going to cripple both him and his chuckleheaded son so I can relish in the tears of all these pathetic gap-toothed fools."

What made Haynes change so thoroughly? It all stems from a six-man tag team match on April 14 in Portland. Haynes teamed with the Olivers to face The Grappler, Brian Adams, and The Equalizer. It was a bout that the Olivers wish had never taken place.

Haynes and his partners got off to a fast start, dominating the rulebreakers with a wide array of scientific maneuvers. It looked like the match was about to end when Haynes locked Adams up in a full-nelson, his usual finishing maneuver. But as Equalizer distracted the referee, Grappler ran in the ring with a metal trash can and smashed Haynes in the back of the head.

As Haynes fell to the mat, Larry Oliver ran in, kicked Grappler, and snatched the trash can from him. When Haynes finally made his way back to his feet, he saw Oliver holding the can. He instantly assumed that Larry had been the one who hit him.

Haynes flew into a violent rage. He attacked Larry, beating him senseless with the can. Then he grabbed Adams' kendo stick and continued the assault. When Rip Oliver ran in the ring and tried to

end the attack, Haynes mounted the top rope and dove off, bringing the kendo stick down hard across Rip's throat. When the assault was over, Rip had to be carried from the ring on a stretcher.

"It was guilt by association," said Rip after his recovery a few days later. "Billy saw Larry with the can and just assumed that he had hit him with it. Frankly, if we can just talk to Billy, I'm sure we can talk him back to his senses. That's the kind of a guy he is."

But the kind of man Haynes *really* is would be proven the very next week. After Adams defeated Larry Oliver in a tournament final to determine the new PNW champion, Haynes ran to the ring and choked Larry with Adams' kendo stick. Rip Oliver attacked Haynes, and the locker rooms emptied to end the brawl. Seven days after that, Haynes took on Larry Oliver, but again that match ended in violence as Haynes attacked Rip, who was stationed at ringside.

Whenever either of the Olivers is involved in a match, Haynes is usually there to assault them. And in his own matches, Haynes has become exceedingly brutal, using his full-nelson to injure the neck of every opponent he faces.

"It's been weeks since I wrestled him, but I haven't recovered yet," said Bill Francis, a recent Haynes victim. "I've been a friend of Billy's for a long time, but he's turned into a wildman. I just couldn't believe the sadistic look in his eyes when he wrestled me. He's a monster now, and I'm afraid he's the kind of man who's going to dominate the PNW for a long time. Who can stop him in the state of mind he's in?"

Haynes has been so incredibly callous with his recent actions that he's been threatened with suspensions several times by PNW promoter Don Owen. Haynes laughs off the threats.

"Let 'em fine me," said Haynes. "Let 'em try to suspend me. I don't really care. For years I've been an idiot, doing whatever the fans wanted me to do. Now I'm looking out for number-one. Forget that wimp you saw in the past. This is the way I'm gonna stay forever."

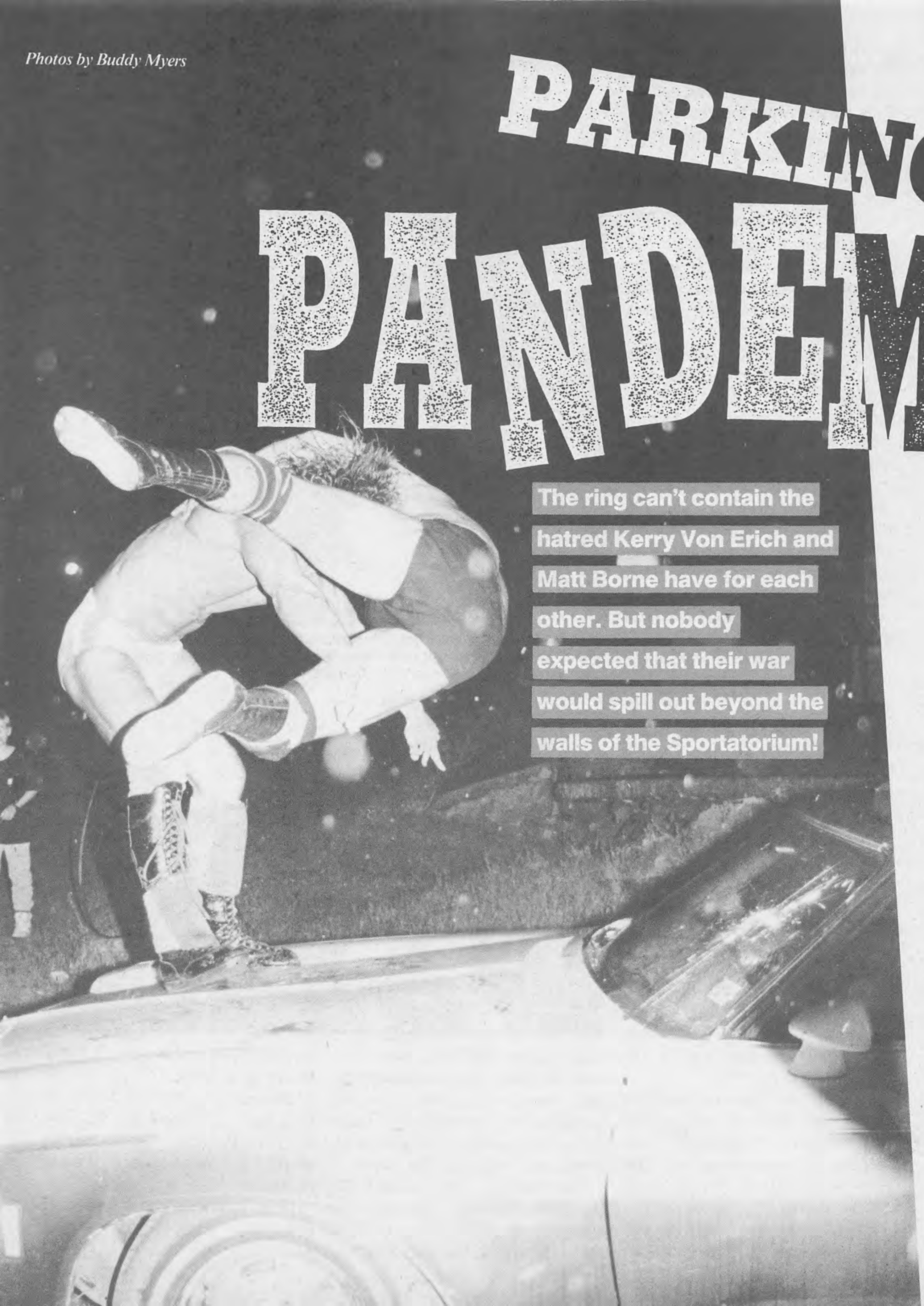
**Now Haynes uses his crunching full-nelson on fan favorites like Bill Francis (above). Haynes continues to battle Oliver (below), even though many people have told him that Oliver meant him no harm.**

"Haynes is a creep," said PNW fan Phil Ohlmen, throwing his autographed color photos of Billy Jack into a trash bin after a recent Portland card. "For years, I really looked up to the guy. I used him as a role model for my kids. Now, all they see is a vicious animal. They keep asking me, 'Why, Daddy? Why?' I just don't have an answer for them."

Cross another name off the list. Billy Jack Haynes has turned bad. □

*Photos by Buddy Myers*

# PARKING PANDEM



**The ring can't contain the hatred Kerry Von Erich and Matt Borne have for each other. But nobody expected that their war would spill out beyond the walls of the Sportatorium!**

# Kerry Von Erich vs. Matt Borne

## LOT
## ONIUM!

Kerry Von Erich slams Matt Borne on a windshield (opposite page) and hits him with a pole (above). Kerry was suspended when he struck matchmaker John Brazzel (below).

**By Andy Rodriguez**

IT RAINED ON May 11 in Dallas, Texas. But that shouldn't have mattered to Kerry Von Erich and Matt Borne. They were wrestling indoors, at the Sportatorium.

How could they have known that their match would rage beyond the point of decency, beyond the Sportatorium doors, out into the warm rain, and onto the hard pavement of the Sportatorium parking lot?

Wrestling is supposed to have its limits. On this night, however, Von Erich and Borne didn't know when to quit.

"It was the war of my life," Von Erich said.

And it was a war that cost him a small part of his career. When it was all over, Von Erich had been suspended indefinitely for striking matchmaker John Brazzel during the postmatch brawl in the parking lot.

"Wrestlers must know that it is absolutely wrong to lay a hand on any referee, matchmaker, or other official of the USWA," announced USWA President Max Andrews. "We're doing what it takes to keep order in this federation."

But in the cast of the Von Erich-Borne feud, that would mean putting chains on the Sportatorium doors and padding every car in the parking lot!

Order had nothing to do with what Von Erich and Borne did on May 11.

It started in the ring, but it didn't last there for long. Von Erich and Borne were both counted out as they battled around the ringside area, through the crowd, down the runway, and out the doors.

When they got outside, the action became even more intense. Von Erich slammed Borne into a car windshield. And when several wrestlers and officials tried to break up the battle, Von Erich hit Brazzel.

"It was totally inadvertent," Von Erich said. "Anybody who knows me knows I would never hit a referee on purpose. But it was in the heat of battle, and I didn't know who I was swinging at. I'm truly sorry about what happened, but I don't think I should

*(Continued on page 58)*

*"I cannot in clear conscience allow these two men to once again battle each other past the point of exhaustion. Therefore, I will not sanction a rematch in the near future. I will leave both men to pursue their own separate destinies."*

—WWF President Jack Tunney on his decision to not grant Hulk Hogan a rematch against World champion The Ultimate Warrior

# THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR WIMPS OUT!

# Why He Won't Wrestle Hulk Hogan

## When WWF President Jack Tunney denied Hulk Hogan a rematch against new World champion The Ultimate Warrior, nobody suspected the real reason behind his decision: Tunney's hands were tied . . . by the Warrior himself!

**By Dave Rosenbaum**

IT STANK, PURE and simple. The situation stank. It smelled like fraud. It looked like a con job. Nobody could understand the meaning behind it. Nobody could understand what Tunney had in mind.

The equation—Hogan plus Warrior equals big bucks—still applied, but it was being ignored by the very federation that seems to base its decisions solely on the bottom line.

And here was the WWF, an enormous payday beckoning, the rematch of the century all set to follow the match of the century, and the federation was saying: "No, it's not going to happen. We're acting in the best interests of the wrestlers."

Bulldinky.

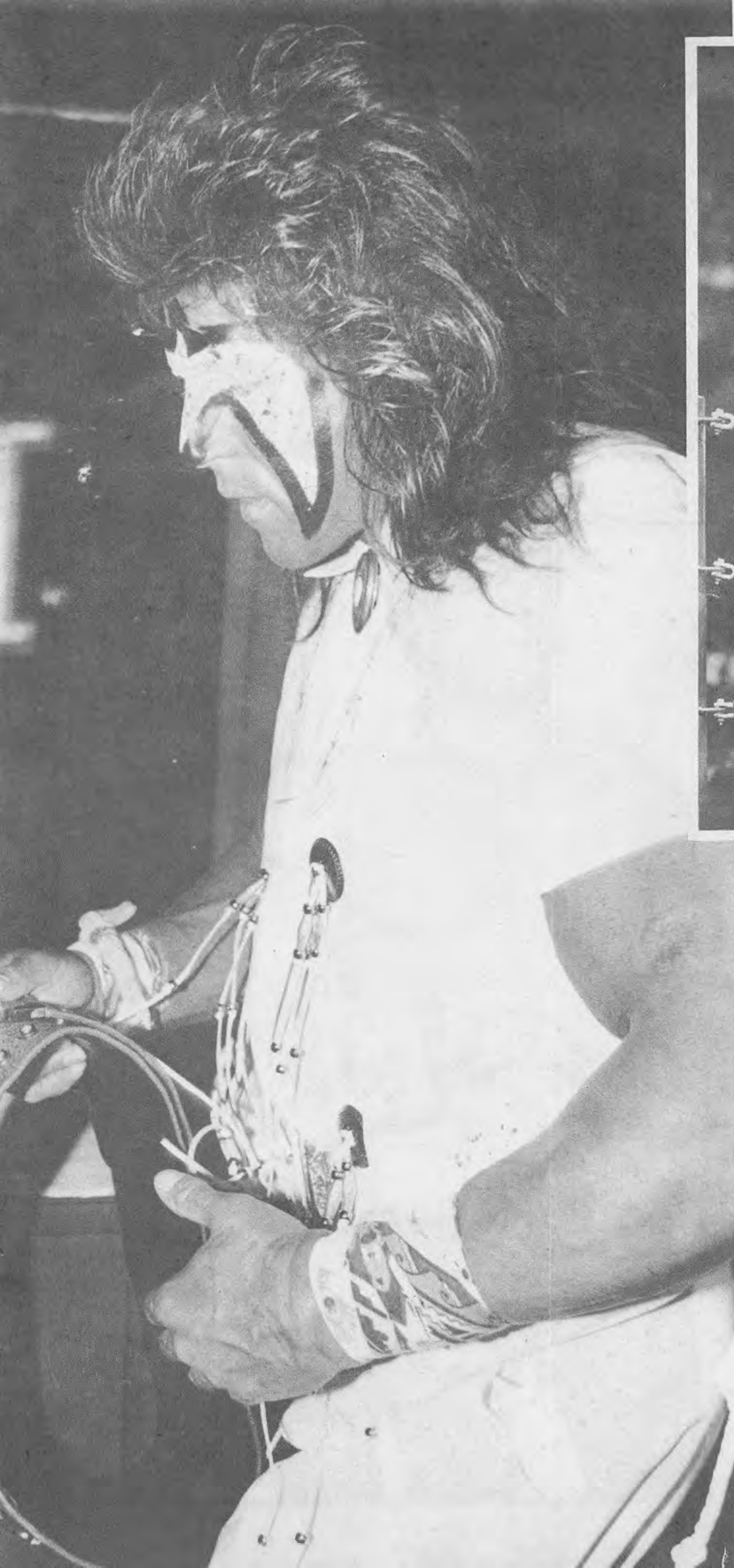
Or, as Hogan said when he heard the announcement, "ga-ga."

Exactly.

The editors of *The Wrestler,* after an exhaustive investigation, have concluded that The Ultimate Warrior influenced Tunney's decision to not grant a rematch. According to numerous WWF insiders, the Warrior invoked a little-known clause in his contract to avoid Hogan.

The clause (which insiders refer to as the "Dave Winfield Clause" because of its similarity to elements of the contract signed by the former New York Yankees outfielder) reportedly enables the Warrior to refuse matches against

*Photos by David Fitzgerald*



When Hulk Hogan and Ultimate Warrior concluded their battle at WrestleMania VI (above), many thought there would be a rematch between Hogan and the new champion. But WWF President Jack Tunney said no. And now we know why!

any three wrestlers in the WWF.

"The Warrior never used the clause when he was Intercontinental champion because he didn't need it," a high-level WWF source said. "He is allowed to pick three wrestlers every February. When February of this year came along, and he had already signed for the match against Hogan, he quickly invoked Hogan's name for the clause. The Warrior apparently felt that he could beat Hogan once and then never wrestle him again.

"The WWF people were infuriated, but there was nothing they could do about it," the source added. "And since they didn't want anybody else to know about this clause in the Warrior's con-

*(Continued on page 60)*

EXCLUSIVE TEAM COVERAGE

# TAG TEAMS AT THE CROSSROADS

## THE RISE OF DOOM

**By Bob Smith**

JUST SIX MONTHS ago, they were the laughingstocks of the NWA. Doom's rise to the top of the NWA—and the World tag team title—was one of the most stunning turnarounds in wrestling history.

In early December, Doom—the then-masked team of Ron Simmons and Butch Reed—were shut out in the "Iron Man" competition at Starrcade '89.

But, unmasked and managed by Teddy Long, Doom won the World belts on May 19 in Washington, D.C., when Reed pinned Rick Steiner at the 19:14 mark.

There were times in the match, and during the week before the match, that Doom looked like anything *but* champions.

**Sunday, May 13:** Long asks for more. Reed and Simmons stare at him in disbelief. Four hours of pumping iron, strategy sessions, and mat sparring have exhausted them.

"More?" Simmons asks.

"That's right," Long barks back. "More, until you guys are NWA World tag team champions."

And the workout goes on for anoth-

*(Continued on page 62)*

While Doom and manager Teddy Long celebrate their victory for the NWA World tag team title (opposite page), Rick and Scott Steiner (below and right) wonder how they lost.

*Photos by Roy London & Nancy Leone*

**Doom's victory over Rick and Scott Steiner for the NWA World tag team title was one of the most shocking events of the year. Two *Wrestler* reporters spent a week in each camp, enabling us to give you a unique look at the match within the match**

# THE FALL OF THE STEINERS

**By Andy Rodriguez**

THE CHAMPS ARE popular people. Rick and Scott Steiner captured a nation's heart last year, and they've held on to it ever since.

But one week before they are to defend their NWA World tag team belts against Doom, the Steiners do something they rarely do.

They ignore a horde of fans waiting for their autographs.

"Gotta get to bed," Rick says. "We're taking next week's match seriously."

**Sunday, May 13:** Scott Steiner explains why the match is so important.

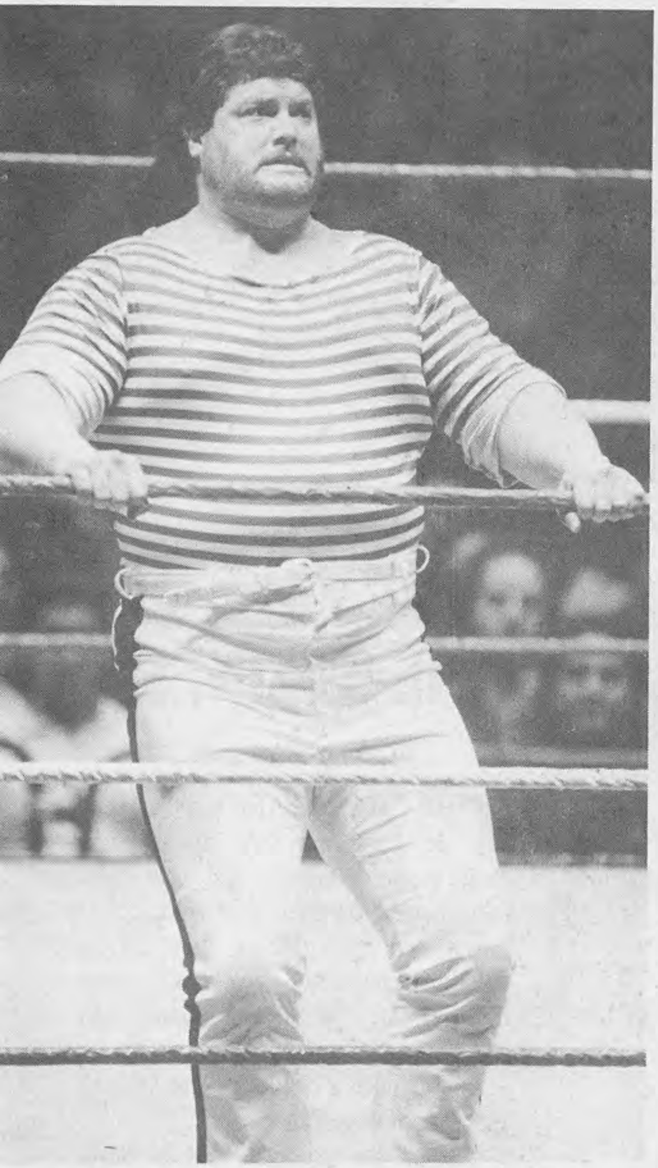
"We've beaten them a lot of times," Scott says. "Let's face it, they have to be demoralized. But if we can get rid of them this one last time, it'll be all over. They'll be out of our hair forever."

**Monday, May 14:** Rick and Scott go through their paces. Rick seems a bit sluggish today. Scott wants to know why.

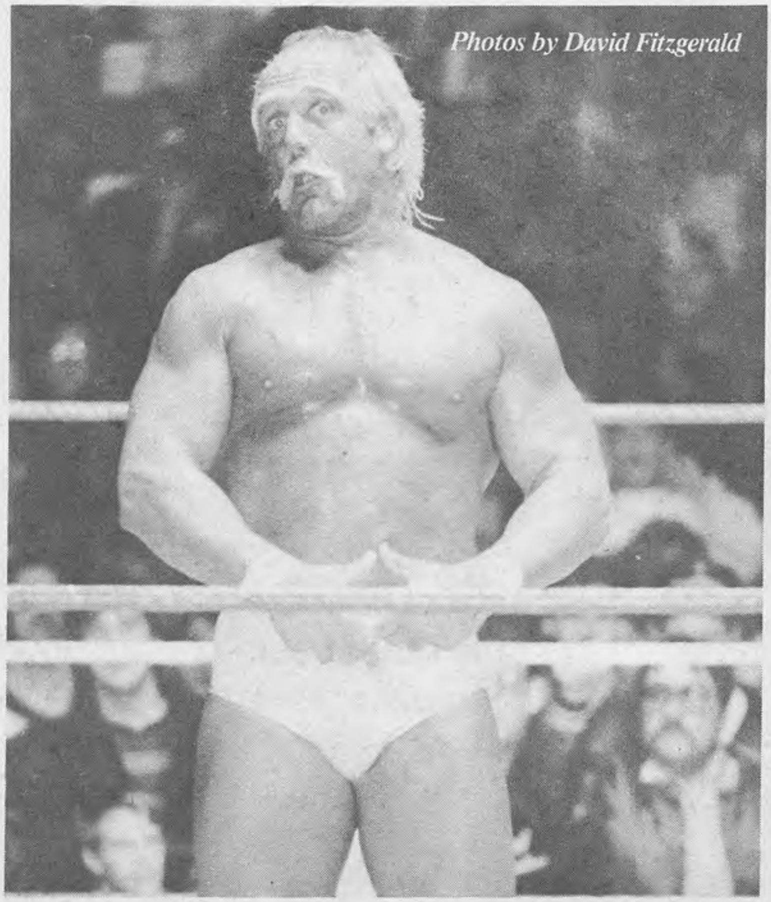
"I don't know," Rick says. "Sometimes you've got it, and sometimes you don't."

"Well," Scott snarls, "you better have it Saturday night."

*(Continued on page 63)*



# CAN TUGBOAT NAVIGATE HULK HOGAN BACK TO THE WWF TITLE?



*Photos by David Fitzgerald*

**It is the most unlikely of friendships. Former WWF World champion Hulk Hogan has taken the amiable Tugboat under his wing, and he's helped the huge newcomer get off to a fast start in the WWF. But now Hogan is in a period of crisis, and Tugboat may be the only person who can lead him back to glory**

**By Liz Hunter**

YOU'VE SEEN HIM before. Like most WWF newcomers, he's wrestled in other places, and he's had other identities.

But the changes in the six-year veteran now known as Tugboat are too startling to ignore. Formerly known as Big Steel Man when he wrestled in Florida, Tugboat has completely altered his appearance and his ring style. Once a brutal rulebreaker in the PWF and CWA, this 407-pound behemoth is now a fan favorite. He's also one of the hottest wrestlers in the WWF, dominating his opponents with his crushing big splash finisher.

He's also become wildly popular, bringing the fans to their feet with every ring appearance. While other veterans such as Al Perez and Terry Taylor have entered the WWF and failed to make an impact, Tugboat is succeeding beyond his wildest dreams.

He can thank Hulk Hogan for that.

The bond between Hogan and Tugboat has been one of the sport's best-kept secrets for most of the past year. When Tugboat made his first WWF appearances in 1989, he was largely ignored by fans, press, and promoters. Only Hogan seemed to spot the potential that the big man possessed.

In reality, Hogan saw a lot of himself in the burly newcomer. Early in his career, Hogan had also been a rulebreaker. He had also gone through the confusion and uncertainty of an identity crisis. Seeing Tugboat floundering in the WWF, Hogan offered his assistance to the former PWF champion.

It was like a dream come true for Tugboat. Hogan taught him new and varied training techniques, and altered his diet so that the foods he ate would turn to muscle instead of fat. Hogan also stressed to Tugboat that matches could be won within the boundaries of the rulebook. He provided Tugboat with the most important asset a newcomer to the WWF can get: guidance from a superstar.

"Hogan and Tugboat are really very similar when you think about it," said a mutual non-wrestling friend. "They're both former rulebreakers, and they're both big, strong, and fiercely competitive. And they really do seem to make a natural pair. I know that Hogan really enjoys Tugboat's company."

It would be Tugboat's friendship that would aid Hogan through some of the toughest times of his career. When Hogan was busy training for his WrestleMania VI match against The Ultimate Warrior, Tugboat took part in every grueling workout session. And when Hogan was upset by the Warrior for the WWF World title, Tugboat was the first man to console the former titleholder.

Thankful for the support, Hogan devoted even more time to advancing Tugboat's career. At many cards after WrestleMania, Hogan accompanied Tugboat to ringside. With Hogan on hand to inspire him, Tugboat compiled an un-

For a man who weighs more than 400 pounds, Tugboat achieves amazing height on his dropkicks; just ask Black Bart. Hulk Hogan has taken this young powerhouse under his wing, but the arrangement may be helping the "Hulkster" more than Tugboat.

blemished record of success.

This new tandem was riding high when tragedy struck on May 15 in La Crosse, Wisconsin. Hogan had wrestled the 462-pound Earthquake, and won by disqualification when manager Jimmy Hart interfered. A few minutes later, Hogan and Hart were interviewed by Brother Love. When Hogan asked Hart where his protege was, Earthquake snuck up from behind and brazenly smashed Hogan with a steel chair. Drunk with power, Earthquake then delivered three huge "earthquake" splashes to Hogan while he lay helpless in the interview area.

After the attack, Hogan was carried from the arena on a stretcher. He was admitted to a nearby hosptial with injuries to his ribs and sternum. Although he was re-

**Ring veterans like Pez Whatley (above) and Barry Horowitz (below) have felt the power of the awesome Tugboat.**

leased days later, the impact of the attack sobered Hogan like few incidents ever have. Prior to the attack, he had been denied a WWF World title rematch against the Warrior by WWF President Jack Tunney. Now, his injuries put his career at a complete standstill.

With Brutus Beefcake, Hogan's other close friend, embroiled in a feud against Lanny Poffo, Tugboat's presence becomes more important than ever in Hogan's life. The roles have quickly been reversed—it is *Hogan* who needs support.

"Unbeknownst to most fans, Tugboat has been Hogan's closest friend since last year," said the friend. "After the Earthquake attack, Hogan just faded away. No one has seen or heard from him since he checked out of the hospital—except Tugboat, that is. Somehow, Tugboat has been the one man who's been able to get through to Hogan during his convalescence. He's the only guy that Hogan has really enjoyed being around lately."

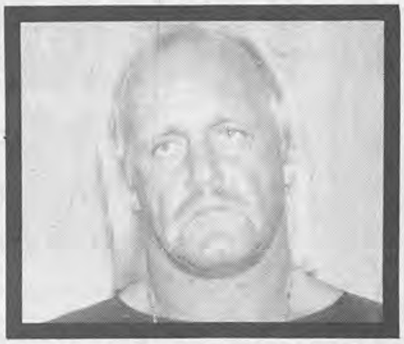
After Hogan's injury, Tugboat announced that he was "dedicating his career" to his fallen friend. He's also petitioned WWF officials for a match against Earthquake in an effort to avenge the brutal attack on Hogan. But it is apparent that Tugboat needs to do even more than that. He must also help Hogan regain his motivation to recapture the WWF World title. A lot of that motivation, he feels, will come from the fans, whom Tugboat is rallying at every stop.

"Personally, I think it might be working," said the friend. "Tugboat is one of the most upbeat, personable guys I've ever met. He just brightens the scene wherever he goes. I know that if he stays in contact with Hogan—and keeps informing him of how the fans want to see him back—those good vibes will just naturally have to rub off on Hulk. If anybody can get him motivated, Tugboat can."

That's a tall order for a newcomer like Tugboat. But then again, nobody—not even Hogan—ever told him that life in the WWF would be smooth sailing. □

# THIS MONTH IN...

## Inside Wrestling



Read all about **HULK HOGAN**—
Bitter ex-champion

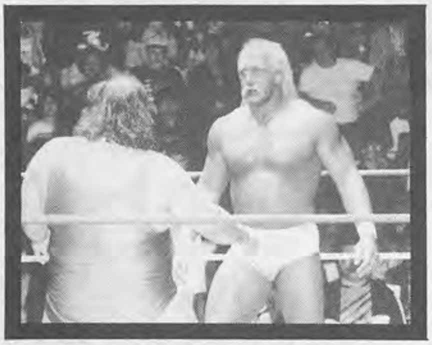
Find out how **THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS** are on a fast track to **DOOM**!

**PLUS . . .**
An exclusive "Hotseat" interview with **JUNKYARD DOG**: "I've still got a lot of bite in my bark!" . . . Is being popular enough for **HACKSAW DUGGAN**? . . . Fighting Fire With Fire: The "Awesome Foursome" are committed to destroying **THE FOUR HORSEMEN** . . . **CHRIS ADAMS'** ex-wife vows: "I'll do anything to destroy my ex-husband!"

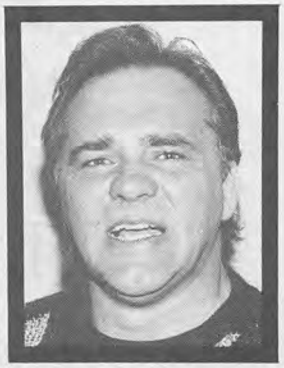
All this and much more . . .
in the September 1990 issue of
*Inside Wrestling*

**ON SALE NOW!**

## Wrestling 90



**HULK HOGAN** vs. **EARTHQUAKE:**
Was this the "Hulkster's" farewell tour?



**RIC FLAIR** & **LARRY ZBYSZKO** on the same card! Is an NWA-AWA merger in the works?

**PLUS . . .**
**BIG BOSSMAN** lays down the law—and **TED DiBIASE'S** millions won't bail him out . . . *Wrestling 90* special analysis: When champions are injured, what's wrestling to do? . . . "Interview 90:" **SID VICIOUS** . . . **ULTIMATE WARRIOR** and **BOB BACKLIND** square off "Head To Head" . . . **STING** in the "Crossfire"

All this and much more . . .
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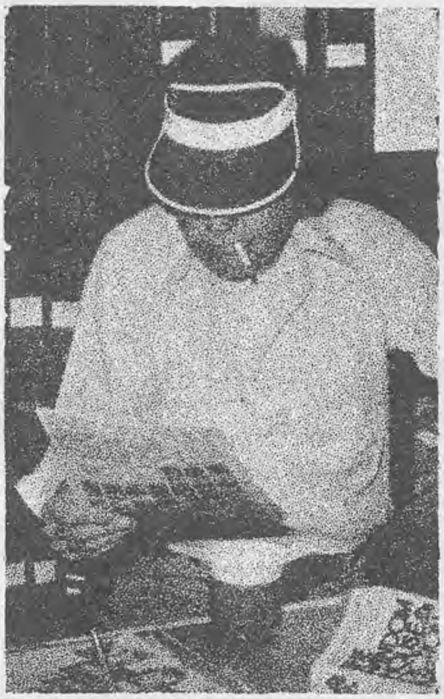
*Wrestling 90*

**ON SALE NOW!**

# MATT BROCK'S LOOKING BACK



## FEBRUARY 26, 1962
## DON CURTIS & MARK LEWIN
## VS.
## SKULL MURPHY & BRUTE BERNARD

EVERY SO OFTEN, I like to get away from it all and be totally on my own. No computer problems. No deadline pressures. No Saks screaming at me on the phone to do special assignments.

Whenever I get a day off on the road, which is rare, I usually just kick back, grab myself a cheap ticket, and head off for . . . well, you guessed it. You just can't keep me out of the arenas for long. Some people go to baseball games or play cards for their fun. Me, I go to see wrestling. It relaxes me, I guess. You may think I'm nuts to go to matches when I don't have to, but after all these years, I still can't think of a better way to spend my free time.

Recently, I enjoyed a pretty good WWF card at the Augusta Civic Center in Georgia. I've always been fond of the South, and wrestling fans in that region of the country really seem to know their stuff. Nice arena, too; not too big, not too small. A great place to enjoy a night of mat action.

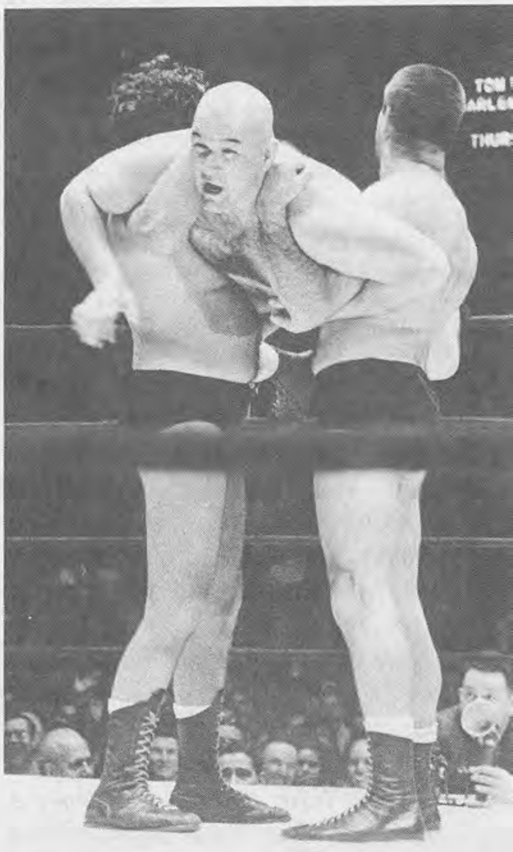
During that WWF card, I realized exactly why I have a pretty strong respect for Marty Jannetty and Shawn Michaels, who seem to prefer being called The Rockers. Not that I enjoy their long hair or their loud rock music. That's for kids, not for me.

But I find myself admiring these Rockers more and more every time I see them. They're pretty good scientific wrestlers, even if they do use double-teaming tactics a bit more than I'd like. And the women just go *nuts* for these guys! From the minute they arrive in the ring to the time they leave, the squealing just doesn't stop. It's pretty amazing.

The reaction to The Rockers takes me back almost three decades, back to that simpler time known as the '60s. In those days, the biggest heartthrob tag team had no nickname. They were just two handsome guys who knew their way around the ring like no other team of their time. Whenever Don Curtis and Mark Lewin competed, they delighted *everybody*—not just the gals—with their amazing skills.

I remember back in 1962, when they had a really great match at Madison Square Garden in New York City. Curtis and Lewin took on Brute Bernard and Skull Murphy, who you might say were The Road Warriors of their time. Bernard and Murphy were a couple of bald brawlers, and they were uglier than sin. And when the opening bell sounded, all they cared about was ripping their opponents to pieces. The fans really hated those guys—and with good reason.

I'll never forget the cold February night in 1962 when these two teams met in the Garden. Tickets for Garden shows were scarcer than hen's teeth in



**Don Curtis and Mark Lewin double-team Skull Murphy during this 1962 bout at Madison Square Garden (above). Murphy's partner, Brute Bernard, receives the same treatment (below). Matt Brock remembers Curtis and Lewin as the Rockers of their time.**

those days, but I was lucky enough to get my mitts on a pair of the precious ducats. And even though I was up in the cheap seats a long way from the ring, I knew it would be a memorable night.

At first, it looked like it would be a long night for Curtis and Lewin. Murphy and Bernard attacked them before the bell, but the man they singled out was Lewin, for some reason. Both of the hairless goons went after Lewin's stomach muscles, torturing him for minutes with an abdominal claw. It really looked as if they would pin Lewin before he would be able to tag out to the flat-topped Curtis.

After what seemed like hours of agony, Lewin was finally able to make the tag, and Curtis took over. He jarred both rulebreakers with some well-placed dropkicks to their rather flabby midsections, which sent them both scurrying from the ring to regroup.

From that point, it was all Curtis and Lewin. And amazingly, Lewin was able to pin Murphy after he and Curtis caught him with a double-stomachbreaker. When Lewin scored the pin, the ladies in the audience raced to ringside to try to get autographs from their heroes.

Let's face it, guys. From Curtis and Lewin to Tony Garea and Rick Martel to The Rockers to The Southern Boys, women just love handsome men. Times may change, but that's the way of the world. The way to the female heart, at least in wrestling, is to be as good-looking as possible.

Come to think of it, that's probably why I've never been married. How can a mug like mine compete with *those* guys? □

(Continued from page 5)

Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie is wreaking havoc in the LPWA, and that, writes Rhonda East, is bad news for women's wrestling.

with life. When he was beaten by The Ultimate Warrior, it was a signal saying, "Do not wrestle anymore!"

Can't you take a hint, Honky Tonk?

ERIC KOENIG
Springfield, VA

## DREAM FOR A CHANCE

Dusty Rhodes definitely deserves a shot at one of the titles in the WWF. He has beaten every decent competitor in that federation. He dominated Randy Savage, and that's no small feat, considering that the "Macho King" is a former World and Intercontinental champion. If Dusty can win again and again against Savage, then he should be wrestling for a belt.

At this time, I'm sure Dusty wouldn't want to wrestle Ultimate Warrior for the World championship, but I'm certain he'd like a shot at Curt Hennig's I-C belt. Picturing Dusty with that belt around his waist isn't so hard. He's held so many titles over the course of his career that one more would just seem natural.

If the WWF doesn't give Dusty a title shot soon, I just might send a petition to their offices. Maybe nothing will come of it, but I still might give it a try. The fans' voices have to be heard.

MARIA CONNORS
Dover, DE

## LPWA EXCITEMENT

Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie should never have come to the LPWA. Why does he have to stick his nose in their business? Now he has to bring his nastiness to women's wrestling. It's really sad.

At least Shelly Francis was smart enough to dump him. But now he's managing Lelani Kai and Judy Martin. They are fine wrestlers on their own and they don't need him to succeed. Unfortunately, he has convinced them that he's their key to success. Of course, that's a lie.

It was also good to see "Superstar" Susan Sexton turn good. When the champion of the federation has the fans on her side, there's no telling how far she can go. Al-Kaissie and his slimy friends really have to be on their toes now. Maybe this will finally put a stop to their sneak-attacks.

RHONDA EAST
Butte, MT

## BILLY JACK'S MISTAKE

The biggest shock here in the Pacific Northwest is how Billy Jack Haynes has turned against his friends and the fans. For so many years, he always had a kind word for the fans. Now he is acting very strange and doing things he never would have done before. This is a

(Continued on page 46)

Billy Jack Haynes clamps the full-nelson on Bill Francis. Reader Roger Needer is appalled by the way the once-popular Haynes has turned his back on the fans.

# BACK ISSUES OF

VICTORY SPORTS SERIES

# THE Wrestler

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**March 1982**/Stories include: Slaughter, Albano, Flair, Race.

**April 1982**/Stories include: Brisco, Armstrongs, Valentine, Santana.

**May 1982**/Stories include: Backlund, Von Erich, Graham, Rich.

**June 1982**/Stories include: Steamboat, Reed, Albano, Piper.

**July 1982**/Stories include: Rich, Sawyer, Flair, Steamboat.

**August 1982**/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Steamboat, Mulligans, Piper.

**September 1982**/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, Armstrong, Blair.

**October 1982**/Stories include: Snuka, Rhodes, Santana, Piper.

**November 1982**/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Piper, Blair.

**December 1982**/Stories include: Snuka, Rich, Kamala, Junkyard Dog.

**January 1983**/Stories include: Putski, Muraco, Windham, Bockwinkel.

**February 1983**/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Backlund, Rich, Kamala.

**April 1983**/Stories include: Rhodes, Tiger Mask, Sammartino, Bundy.

**May 1983**/Stories include: Samoans, Von Erich, Rhodes, Orndorff.

**June 1983**/Stories include: Windham, Martel, Brody, Andre.

**July 1983**/Stories include: Flair, Adonis, Sullivan, Zbyszko.

**August 1983**/Stories include: Valentine, Blanchard, Windham, Street.

**September 1983**/Stories include: Hogan, Ellering, Von Erich, Briscos.

**October 1983**/Stories include: Race, Sawyer, Briscos, Bass.

**November 1983**/Stories include: Rhodes, Santana, Von Erichs, Kabuki.

**December 1983**/Stories include: Mascaras, Superstar, Von Erich, Zbyszko.

**March 1984**/Stories include: Santana, Hogan, Von Erich, Sawyers.

**April 1984**/Stories include: Hogan, Ellering, Von Erich, Rhodes.

**May 1984**/Stories include: Windham, Brody, Road Warriors, Junkyard Dog.

**June 1984**/Stories include: Von Erich, Billy Jack, Flair, Armstrong.

**July 1984**/Stories include: Rich, Billy Jack, Valiant, Von Erich.

**August 1984**/Stories include: Garvin, Sullivan, Freebirds, Street.

**September 1984**/Stories include: Von Erich, Piper, Steamboat, Billy Jack.

**October 1984**/Stories include: Flair, Rhodes, Magnum T.A., Bundy.

**November 1984**/Stories include: Billy Jack, Von Erich, Piper, Brody.

**December 1984**/Stories include: Martel, Santana, Von Erich, Steamboat.

**January 1985**/Stories include: Von Erich, Warriors, Albano, Koloffs.

**February 1985**/Stories include: Warriors, Santana, Billy Jack, Nikita Koloff.

**March 1985**/Stories include: Slaughter, Warriors, Martel, Rude.

**April 1985**/Stories include: Warriors, Von Erich-Adams, Flair, Tonga & Snuka.

**May 1985**/Stories include: Warriors, Backlund, Santana, Rich.

**June 1985**/Stories include: Rhodes, Windham, Rich, Hogan.

**July 1985**/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Reed, Martel, Sunshine.

**September 1985**/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Savage, R&R Express.

**October 1985**/Stories include: Flair, Windham, Shultz, Martel.

**November 1985**/Stories include: Hogan, Zbyszko, R&R Express, Von Erichs.

**December 1985**/Stories include: Rude, Fantastics, Muraco, Uncle Elmer.

**February 1986**/Stories include: Hogan, Orndorff, Flair, Hansen.

**March 1986**/Stories include: Von Erich, Duggan, Hansen-Martel.

**April 1986**/Stories include: Von Erich, Rude, Lugar, Hogan, Magnum T.A.

**May 1986**/Stories include: Zbyszko, Von Erichs, Santana-Ventura, Hillbillies.

**June 1986**/Stories include: Lugar, Hernandez, Flair-Bockwinkel, Hogan, T.A.

**July 1986**/Stories include: King Kong Bundy, Koloff vs. Graham, Ric Flair.

**August 1986**/Stories include: Snuka, Bulldogs, Freebirds, Warriors, Duggan.

**September 1986**/Stories include: Fantastics, Adonis, Morton-Flair, Brody.

**October 1986**/Stories include: Nikita-Magnum, Nord, Bruno, Kerry, Windham.

**November 1986**/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan-Orndorff, Von Erich.

**December 1986**/Stories include: Flair, Bockwinkel, Hogan, Gilbert, Nikita.

**January 1987**/Stories include: Heenan, Garvins, DiBiase, Borne & Sawyer.

**February 1987**/Stories include: Magnum T.A., Gordy, Steamboat-Roberts.

**March 1987**/Stories include: Windham, Nikita, Adias, Savage-Steamboat.

**April 1987**/Stories include: Hogan, Luger, Rich-Lawler, R&R Express.

**May 1987**/Stories include: Flair-Nikita, Andre-Hogan, UWF, Windham, Hennig.

**June 1987**/Stories include: Flair-Windham, Can-Ams, Rhodes-Murdoch.

**July 1987**/Stories include: Cornette, Hyatt, Luger, Harts, Adams, Hansen.

**August 1987**/Stories include: Can-Ams, Luger vs. Nikita, Fantastics, Koko, Nord.

**September 1987**/Stories include: Koloffs, Harts, Duggan, Hennig, Hart.

**October 1987**/Stories include: Savage-Honky Tonk, Horsemen, Patera, Kerry.

**November 1987**/Stories include: Williams, Luger, Hogan-Khan, Rich.

**December 1987**/Stories include: Hogan, Windham, Lawler, Flair, Beefcake.

**January 1988**/Stories include: Nikita-Taylor, Warriors, DiBiase-Duggan.

**February 1988**/Stories include: Flair, Andre-Hogan, New Breed, Kerry.

**March 1988**/Stories include: Hogan, Luger-Sting, Calgary, Demolition.

**April 1988**/Stories include: Bonus 4-page color section! Starrcade, Survivor Series, World Class.

**May 1988**/Stories include: Horsemen, Hogan, Flair, Fantastics, DiBiase.

**June 1988**/Stories include: Sting-Flair, DiBiase, Kerry, Nikita, Zenk.

**July 1988**/Stories include: Fantastics, Hogan, Windham, McMahon, Rich.

**August 1988**/Stories include: Savage, Windham-Luger split, Demolition, Lawler, Ellering.

**September 1988**/Stories include: Duggan vs. Andre, Hogan, Windham.

**October 1988**/Stories include: Rhodes, Fantastics, Hennig, Roberts-Rude.

**November 1988**/Stories include: Midnight Ex., DiBiase, Bossman, Brody.

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(Continued from page 44)

Tully Blanchard rakes the eyes of Paul Diamond, an action that cannot please Tully's father, AWA president Joe Blanchard. Reader Tina Messing points out that the elder Blanchard doesn't show favoritism toward his son.

complete shock to everyone who has followed Billy's outstanding career.

Hopefully, the Olivers and "Beetlejuice" Art Barr will be able to talk some sense into Haynes and get him back on the right track. We need Billy on the side of the fan favorites. Without him, there will be too much trouble in PNW wrestling.

ROGER NEEDER
Portland, OR

## PRICKLY CACTUS

Cactus Jack is an absolute lunatic! He has a total disregard for his body, which is obvious from the way he leaps onto the hard concrete floor from the ring. If he isn't careful, he's really going to hurt himself one of these days. It's amazing what he'll do to win a match, although he loses most of the time. Still, you have to give him credit for trying. He hangs in there and doesn't quit.

Kevin Sullivan should stop nagging Jack everytime he does something wrong. Jack may not be the smartest man in the world, but if he wised up he'd beat up Sullivan and stop listening to his worthless advice.

KEVIN JONES
Atlanta

## TULLY THE BULLY

Tully Blanchard entered the AWA because his father, Joe Blanchard, is the president of the AWA. Because of that, Tully thinks he'll get away with anything. But Joe has made it clear that if his son tries to make rulebreaking his main order of business, Joe will treat him just like anyone else.

In the "Q & A" interview you conducted with Tully (July 1990), he said that he thought about going back to the Horsemen. I wonder if the Horsemen would take him back now, seeing that they've added Barry Windham and Sid Vicious to their roster. Would Blanchard even fit in with his former mates anymore?

Tully will do well wherever he goes, but he should avoid the Horsemen.

TINA MESSING
Ocala, FL □


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**April 1990**/Stories include: Starrcade '89, Ultimate, Rhodes, Sawyer.
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# WHAT'S HAPPENING

*(Continued from page 6)*

return to the ring.

"The 'Hulkster' truly enjoyed his stint as a dramatic actor when he worked on *No Holds Barred,*" said a WWF source. "Although Hogan recently denied he was interested in signing a contract with **Disney Studios**, he never said he wasn't interested in acting again. Many people in Hollywood, particularly Kaufman, seem to think that Hogan has quite a lot of potential on the big screen. With so many fine offers coming his way, it's hard to imagine Hogan not grabbing a few of them."

In other entertainment news, *Tag Team,* the proposed ABC action series starring **Jesse Ventura** and **Roddy Piper**, was not among the series announced by the network as an addition to its 1990 fall schedule. However, the series is still being developed as a possible mid-season replacement.

**Junkyard Dog** has returned to the NWA, and already the veteran has made an incredible impact. On May 25 in St. Louis, JYD defeated NWA World champion **Ric Flair** in a non-title steel cage match. And the next night in Norfolk, Virginia, Dog pinned the "Nature Boy" in another non-title bout!

"All along, I've been sayin' **The Four Horsemen** ain't nothin' if you can get 'em one at at time," said JYD, who had been wrestling on the independent circuit in recent months. "Now that I've established myself, I feel I'm deserving of a title match against that blond bum Flair. And just wait and see if I don't take that championship from him! And when I do that, the Horsemen will disintegrate right in front of everybody's eyes, daddy!"

A misunderstanding between **Kerry Von Erich** and **Percy Pringle** cost the "Modern-Day Warrior" the USWA Texas title on May 25 in Dallas. Von Erich was defending

**Kerry Von Erich lost the USWA Texas title to Matt Borne following an argument with Percy Pringle.**

his belt against **Matt Borne** in a lumberjack match. When Borne tossed Von Erich out of the ring toward Percy, who was doing color commentary, Kerry accidentally ripped Pringle's jacket.

A livid Pringle jumped up on the ring apron and started yelling at Kerry. As Von Erich tried to explain that it was an accident, Borne rolled up Von Erich for the pin and the title. During a televised interview the next day, Von Erich accused Pringle of costing him the championship, but Pringle insisted that Kerry owed him for a new jacket. Kerry countered that wasn't all he'd owe Pringle for, and proceeded to rip the shirt right off him!

"Is everybody around here going crazy?" asked Von Erich after the incident. "First, my old friend Borne turns against me, and it looks as if Percy is going sour on me, too. I really don't know what hurts worse—losing the Texas belt, or losing two of my closest friends."

For more on the Von Erich-Borne feud, see the feature article on page 32.

LPWA champion **Susan Sexton** has ventured to Japan in defense

of her title. She's engaged in an exciting series of matches against top contender **Harley Saito**. Also wrestling in the Orient is **Magnificent Mimi** . . . Japanese legend **Tiger Mask** has unmasked, revealing himself to be **Mitsu Misawa**. Now Misawa wants an opportunity to wrestle **Jumbo Tsuruta** for his "triple crown" trio of title belts—the All-Japan, United National, and PWF championships . . . A new promotion, Megame Super World Sports, will debut in Japan this fall.

Another new promotion is TBC sports, which is headquartered in Concord, North Carolina. Top stars competing for the new organization are **Ivan** and **Nikita Koloff**, **Bobby** and **Jackie Fulton**, and **Manny Fernandez** . . . Fernandez, **Harley Race**, and **The British Bulldogs** are all scheduled to tour South America in late July . . . Who's the most overlooked tag team in wrestling? In my opinion, it's **The Texas Hangmen** in the AWA. The masked duo, dubbed **Psycho** and **Killer**, have quickly established themselves as the top contenders to **The Destruction Crew's** AWA World title.

**Scott Norton** was stripped of the Pacific Northwest title on May 26 in Portland, Oregon. The former superheavyweight arm-wrestling champion was also suspended from the federation after attacking eight wrestlers and referee **Sandy Barr** during a tag team match at the Portland Sports Arena.

"I guess I really went overboard," said an apologetic Norton afterward. "When **Billy Jack Haynes** blindsided me with a kendo stick, I saw red and attacked everyone in sight. I'm sorry for what I did, but somebody's gotta show thugs like Haynes and **Brian Adams** that they can't get away with garbage like that anymore. I guess what I did wasn't worth this kind of punishment, but I'll be back soon enough."

That's all for now. See you at the matches! □


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**SUMMER 1986**

**WINTER 1984/Color pinup:** Billy Jack Haynes. **Stories include:** Ventura, Adams, Martel, Flair, Reed.

**FALL 1985/Color pinup:** Steve Keirn & Stan Lane. **Stories include:** Albano & Hogan, DiBiase, Warriors, Garvin.

**WINTER 1985/Color pinup:** Barry Windham. **Stories include:** Hogan, Zbyszko, Kerry, R&R Express, Steamboat, Thesz.

**SPRING 1986/Color pinup:** The Road Warriors. **Stories include:** Martel, Savage vs. Poffo, Hogan, Santana, Steamboat.

**SUMMER 1986/Color pinup:** Rock 'n' Roll Express & Magnum T.A. **Stories include:** Flair, Warriors, JYD, Magnum, Williams.

**FALL 1986/Color pinup:** Randy Savage. **Stories include:** R&R Express, Missy, Roberts, Windham, Luger, Rhodes.

**WINTER 1986/Color pinup:** Hulk Hogan. **Stories include:** Flair, Freebirds, Hogan, Andre, Watts, Haynes, Fantastics.

**SPRING 1987/Color pinup:** The Four Horsemen. **Stories include:** Ventura, T.A., Bulldogs, Adias, Savage-Steamboat.

**SUMMER 1987/Color pinup:** Road Warriors workout. **Stories include:** Hogan-Andre, Rockers, Koloff, Warriors, Hall-Luger.

**FALL 1987/Color pinup:** Dark Journey. **Stories include:** Albano, Hogan, T.A., Lane, Hyatt, Hennig, Luger.

**WINTER 1987/Color pinup:** Jesse Ventura. **Stories include:** Kerry, Rhodes, Hogan, Flair, Honky Tonk, DiBiase.

**SPRING 1988/Color pinup:** Elizabeth. **Stories include:** Hennig, Koloff, Savage, Strike Force, Warriors, Andre-Hogan.

**SUMMER 1988/Color pinup:** Missy Hyatt. **Stories include:** Rock 'n' Roll Express, Hogan, Sting, Luger, Owen Hart, Animal.

**FALL 1988/Color pinup:** Madusa Miceli. **Stories include:** Savage, Hyatt, Von Erich, Triple Dome, Demolition, Steamboat, Heenan, Lawler.

**WINTER 1988/Color pinup:** Randy Savage. **Stories include:** DiBiase, Flair, Duggan, Sting, Piper, Luger, Brody.

**SPRING 1989/Color pinup:** Rick Steamboat. **Stories include:** Bigelow, Lawler, Blazer, Sting, Ultimate-Hogan, Jake-Andre, Powers of Pain.

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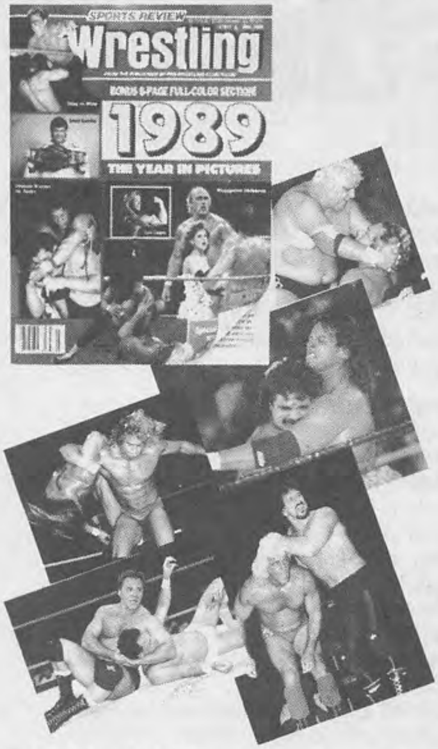


In the March 1990 edition, *Sports Review Wrestling* featured a bonus FULL-COLOR "Year In Pictures" section! All the feuds, title changes, controversies, and drama of 1989 are captured in dozens of magnificent peak-action photos as only the staff of *Sports Review Wrestling* can capture them! Copies of this collectors' issue are only $5 each. Supplies are limited, so order today!

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# NO HOLDS BARRED

*(Continued from page 8)*

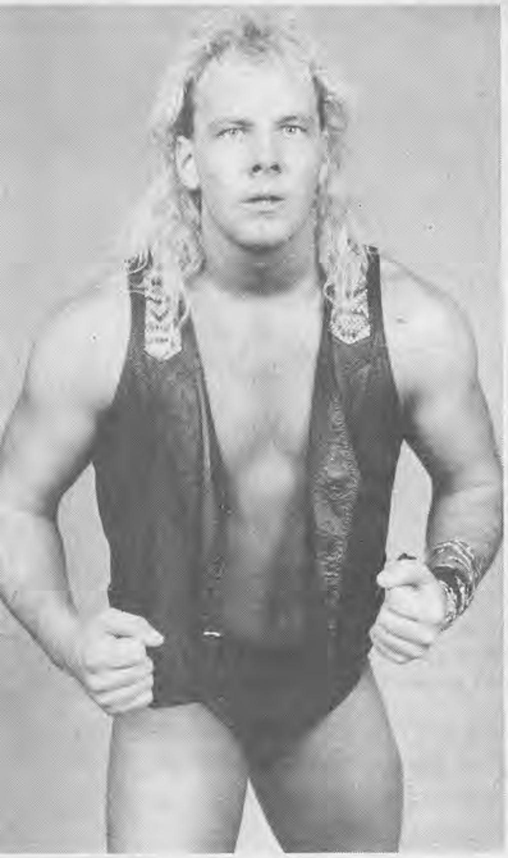
Blackjack's right. In all likelihood, Barry Windham blew his chance at the NWA World championship. Figure that, at the very least, he'll be with the Horsemen for a year. When (and if) he breaks free, there'll still be a long line of contenders ahead of him: Luger, Sting, Scott Steiner, and so on.

Of course, maybe Windham is smarter than the rest of us. You know how the Horsemen are always trying to protect Flair by making his top challengers their new members?

Well, maybe Windham realized that the line to the NWA World title was already too long. Maybe he realizes that by joining the Horsemen—then turning against them—he'd advance right to the head of the class.

"That's Mulligan thinking, all right," Blackjack said. "I wish I could give Barry credit for that kind of thinking, but I'm not sure that I can."

**Windham had some classic matches against Flair for the NWA World title back in 1987. By joining the Horsemen, he's given up those title opportunities.**



**At the moment, Kendall Windham holds completely opposite views than his brother. But he, too, has been both fan favorite and rulebreaker during his short career.**

Windham, when confronted with this theory, threatened to send a horde of Horsemen up to the offices of *The Wrestler*.

"That would teach you a lesson," Windham said. "I've got nothing up my sleeve, nothing but a whole wad of money for signing that contract with the Horsemen. Why don't you yellow journalists go chase somebody else?"

So be it. Let Windham waste away. Vicious, too, although that's an issue already dealt with many times in many magazines.

My guess is that Windham's best years are behind him.

"I'm afraid Barry blew his chance," Blackjack Mulligan said mournfully.

As for Kendall . . .

Well, forget about Kendall.

At this point, forget about *all* of the Windhams.

"We're an endangered species," Blackjack said. "I never thought I'd see the day." □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# CORRESPONDENTS REPORTS

(Continued from page 14)

and The Hart Foundation were both disqualified . . . The Warlord defeated Tito Santana . . . Brutus Beefcake beat Lanny Poffo . . . Paul Roma pinned Frenchy Martin.

**Derwood, MD** ***(Correspondent—Timothy Walker):*** When Ivan Koloff faced Big John Studd in the main event of this All-Star Wrestling card, he tried to match strength with the 6'10" giant, but Studd simply tossed him to the mat. Koloff then attempted a bodyslam, but he couldn't budge the 364-pounder.

**Big John Studd overpowered Ivan Koloff and pinned him in their match in Derwood, Maryland.**

Frustrated, Koloff aimed a series of chops and punches at Studd's throat, and that finally dropped him to the canvas. The former WWF champion continued his assault, hurting Studd with several kidney punches. Koloff then draped his chain over the corner turnbuckle and rammed Studd face-first into it.

Studd began a comeback, but both men collided with the referee. Koloff grabbed his chain and swung wildly at Studd, who ducked and nailed Koloff with a clothesline. The ref recovered to count the pin, giving Studd the victory.

In other bouts: Bobby & Jackie Fulton wrestled The Satanic Warriors to a double-countout . . . Bambi beat Peggy Lee Leather . . . The Bounty Hunter drew with John Rambo . . . "Diamond" Dave Casanova pinned Neil Superior . . . Joey Maggs defeated The Nature Boy.

**Memphis, TN** ***(Correspondent—Mark Mitchell):*** In this matchup at the Mid-South Coliseum, USWA champion Jerry Lawler took on Jimmy Valiant in a stretcher match. Lawler was accompanied to the ring by Ronald P. Gossett.

A few minutes after the match began, the action spilled out of the ring. Gossett got into a shoving contest with referee Jerry Calhoun and Valiant, during which he tried to bump Valiant with his huge belly. But Valiant moved and Gossett hit Calhoun, knocking the wind out of the referee.

Moments later, Gossett passed a small towel soaked in ether to Lawler, who shoved it in Valiant's face. When Calhoun got to his feet, he saw Valiant unconscious, made the 10-count, and ordered him to be put on a stretcher.

As several wrestlers were carrying Valiant back to the dressing room, Lawler and Gossett overturned the stretcher before fleeing for the safety of their own dressing room.

In other bouts: The Inhuman beat Ben Jordan . . . Bill Dundee defeated Lou Winston . . . Brickhouse Brown & Sweet Daddy Falcone beat The Southern Rockers . . . Mike Awesome defeated Chris Champion . . . Jeff Jarrett beat Jeff Gaylord by disqualification.

**Chicago, IL** ***(Correspondent—Andy Abrahamson):*** Road Warrior Hawk took a break from the tag team scene and wrestled Ric Flair for the NWA World title. Flair was accompanied to the ring by Woman.

**In his hometown of Chicago, Road Warrior Hawk got a shot at NWA champion Ric Flair and defeated him by disqualification.**

The champion attacked Hawk early, using kneedrops and backdrops to weaken the Road Warrior. But Hawk quickly gained the advantage, using several gorillapresses to slam Flair and weaken him considerably.

About 15 minutes into the match, Flair locked Hawk in a figure-four leglock. Hawk quickly broke it and rammed Flair into the ringpost so hard that the impact broke Flair's forehead open. Woman managed to pass a foreign object to Flair, who used the weapon to stun Hawk momentarily. When Flair tried to use it again, Hawk slugged him and the object went flying. Seeing this, referee Nick Patrick disqualified Flair immediately.

In other bouts: Rick & Scott Steiner defeated Doom . . . Road Warrior Animal & Mike Rotundo beat The Midnight Express . . . The Wild Samoans defeated Brian Pillman & Paul Drake . . . Kevin Sullivan pinned Rick Ryder . . . Bam Bam Bigelow defeated Jonnie Stewart . . . Robbie Idol beat Ned Brady. □

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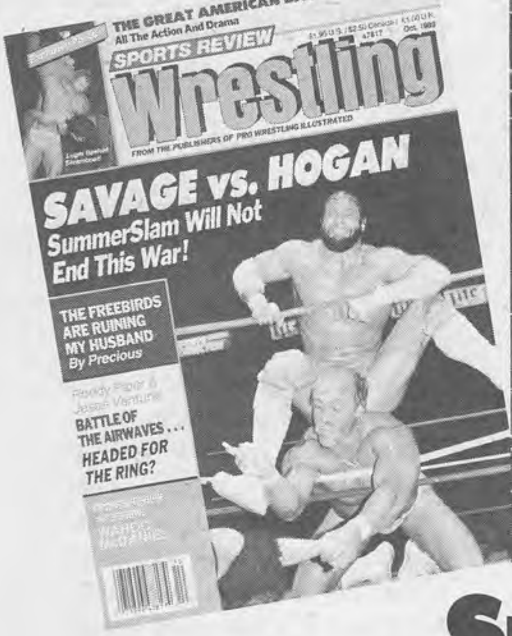


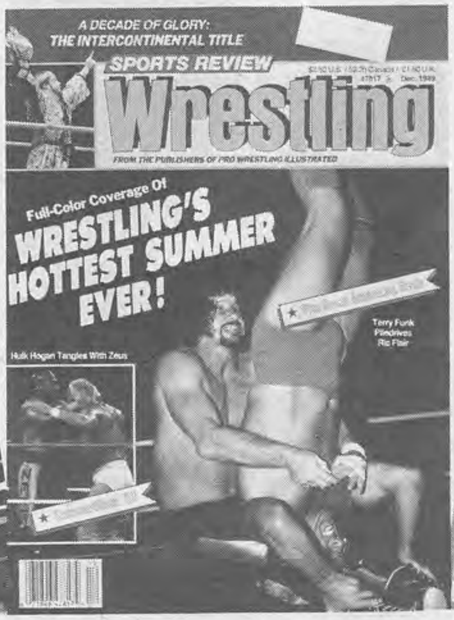

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# YOU ASKED US

*(Continued from page 16)*

**Jimmy Garvin supports Precious' decision to stay out of the public eye. She still occasionally helps him with match strategy.**

tling history has ever topped her beauty!"—David Frederick, Philadelphia

A: **"You keep your eyes off my squeeze, Frederick!" screamed Garvin. "Precious is still an important part of my life, but she's staying out of the public eye for right now. She still helps me with my match strategies, and she's been instrumental in helping The Freebirds pick out our award-winning ring attire. But she grew tired of all the fan favorites trying to attack her all the time, so she's decided to lay low and work behind the scenes. Other than that, what Precious does is *my* business. The last thing I need are some geeky fans gettin' involved in my personal affairs."**

***

Q: "My question is for Arn Anderson: Since you have been managed by both Bobby 'The Brain' Heenan and J.J. Dillon, who are two similar managers, who do you feel is the better leader?"—Kyle Deutsch, Colorado Springs, CO

A: **"This question proves you don't know what you're talking about, Deutsch," Anderson replied. "You say that Heenan and Dillon are similar, but in reality they're as different as two people could possibly**

**Arn Anderson says that although he had his disagreements with J.J. Dillon, he believes Dillon was better for him than his WWF manager, Bobby Heenan.**

be. Dillon was a great teacher and a master at planning financial strategies. Heenan, on the other hand, did little in terms of strategy, but he was real interested in getting every last dime he could squeeze out of his wrestlers. Dillon went a long way in making The Four Horsemen the most feared organization in the history of this sport. What did Heenan ever do? At the end, I had my problems with Dillon, too, but he was miles ahead of Heenan as a manager. There's just no comparison."

***

**Q:** "My question is for Mike Awesome: How could you turn against the fans the way you did? You were one of my favorites in the USWA—in all of wrestling, for that matter—but now that you're involved with that awful Ronnie Gossett, I don't want to have anything to do with you!"—Rob Young, Dallas

Mike Awesome says taking Ronald P. Gossett as his manager was an excellent career move.

**A:** "If fans like you hate me, that's fine," laughed Awesome. "I was doing all right as a fan favorite, but I wasn't getting the kind of main-event matches that a man of my size and physique deserves. Now, with big Ronnie leading the way, I'm proving to everybody in the USWA that I'm not a man to be taken lightly. Who cares how I get to superstardom, as long as I get there as quickly as possible?" ☐


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(Continued from page 18)

its rulebreaking faction.

"We really think Gigante is the biggest find of the year, and will probably prove to be the biggest star of the decade," said NWA Executive Vice President Jim Herd. "There have been other big men before, but never has there been anyone of the dimensions and natural athletic ability of this man. I'm confident he will be a main-event star for many years to come."

"I have always been a big fan of pro wrestling," said Gigante, an Argentinian who speaks through an interpreter. "I have always admired the men who have competed in the sport, and now I feel fortunate to be one of them. All I can say at this point is that I will do my best to make my name an honorable one."

When looking at Gigante (whose real name is Jorge Gonzales), one can't help but be impressed. He's the tallest pro wrestler ever to compete, and he weighs a whopping 435 pounds. He also has been blessed with a solid athletic background. For four years, he was the center on Argentina's national basketball team, impressing many NBA scouts with his scoring and rebounding skills.

At the end of his amateur career, he was selected by the Atlanta Hawks in the third round of the 1988 NBA draft. Tragically, a knee injury curtailed his hopes of making the pros. But when NWA officials saw the size and ability of this phenom, they signed him to a contract. They then brought in Hiro Matsuda, the veteran trainer who led Lex Luger into the pros, to guide the training of the 26-year-old big man.

"He truly is one of a kind," said Matsuda. "Obviously, he is very big and strong. But he has more mobility than any other giant who ever wrestled before. His years on the basketball court have taught him balance, and his leaping ability is outstanding. I'd have to say unreservedly that this man could be the most dominant athlete this sport has ever seen."

**El Gigante made his first impact upon the NWA in May at "Capital Combat '90," where he took on the Horsemen (above) and scared the wits out of Ric Flair (below).**

As of press time, Gigante had yet to wrestle his first pro match, but his presence has been felt already: He helped Sting save Lex Luger from an attack by The Four Horsemen at Capital Combat '90 on May 19 in Washington, D.C.

"I needed someone special to help me against five men," said a grateful Sting afterward. "Who better than El Gigante? Man, I thought Sid Vicious was big, but he looked like a midget compared to my new big buddy. Against the Horsemen, I need all the help I can get. Believe me, it'll take more than Ric Flair and his goons to stop Gigante. There's nobody I can think of that could ever be a better security guard than him!"

Gigante is a naturally amiable young man, and he signed autographs and posed for photos with everyone he met at the news conference. But will Gigante's easy-going manner be a problem when he gets into the ring with the NWA's most ruthless rulebreakers?

"I know what I have to do," said Gigante, smiling as always. "When I face men like Flair or Barry Windham, I know I will have to be prepared for anything. But the way I see it, *they* will have the disadvantage, not me. Don't you agree?" □

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**May 1986**/COLOR PINUP: Rick Steamboat. **Road Warriors**, Humongous, Bulldogs, Hansen vs. Martel.

**June 1986**/COLOR PINUP: Kevin Von Erich. **Hulk Hogan**, Adams, Duggan, Scott Hall.

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**October 1988**/COLOR PINUP: Ultimate Warrior. **Sting**, Savage, Lawler, Williams, Steamboat, Varsity Club.

**November 1988**/COLOR PINUP: The Midnight Express. **Hogan**, Rhodes, Express, Powers of Pain.

**December 1988**/COLOR PINUP: Hacksaw Duggan. **Four Horsemen**, Brody, Bigelow, Garvin, Precious.

**January 1989**/COLOR PINUP: Barry Windham. **Hogan-Savage-Elizabeth**, Warriors, Sting.

**February 1989**/COLOR PINUP: Jake Roberts. **Luger**, Hogan-Savage, Kevin Von, Beefcake-Bass.

**April 1989**/COLOR PINUP: Rick Steiner. **Savage**, Dangerously, Muraco, Turner, Powers.

**June 1989**/COLOR PINUP: Rick Steamboat. **Hogan vs. Savage**, Warriors, Zbyszko, Rhodes.

**July 1989**/COLOR PINUP: Roddy Piper. **Steamboat**, Hogan, Paul E., Dream Tournament, Studd, Muraco.

**August 1989**/COLOR PINUP: Lex Luger. **Hogan**, Ultimate, Steamboat-Flair, Road Warriors, Rhodes.

**October 1989**/COLOR PINUP: Rick Rude. **Luger vs. Hogan**, Snuka, Sting, Lawler vs. Perez, Page.

**November 1989**/COLOR PINUP: Ric Flair. **Rhodes**, Steiner, Luger vs. Steamboat, Ultimate, Fuller-Jarrett.

**December 1989**/COLOR PINUP: Jimmy Snuka. **Luger, Vicious, Muta, Sting**, Beefcake & Hogan, Tully & Arn.

**January 1990**/COLOR PINUP: Sid Vicious. **Ultimate**, Cornette, Ross, Kerry.

**February 1990**/COLOR PINUP: Bret Hart. **Lex Luger**, Hogan, Hennig-Beefcake, Toni Adams, Woman.

**April 1990**/COLOR PINUP: Dusty Rhodes. **Ric Flair**, Hennig vs. Hogan, Sting, Rockers, Lawler.

**May 1990**/COLOR PINUP: The Great Muta. **Hulk Hogan**, Skyscrapers, R&R Express, Piper, Embry.

**June 1990**/COLOR PINUP: Sting. **Hogan vs. Warrior**, R&R Express, Rhodes vs. Savage, Arn vs. Sawyer.

**July 1990**/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel. **Lex Luger**, Beefcake, Skyscrapers, Heenan, Saito, referees.

## PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED

- ☐ PWI/Aug 1982
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- ☐ PWI/April 1983
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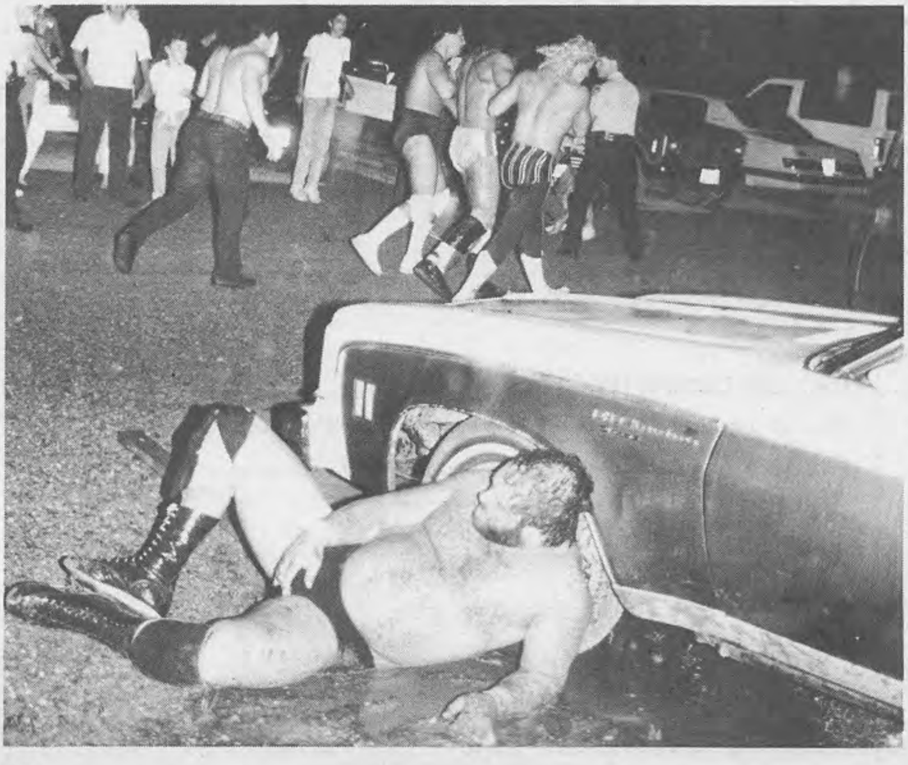
# VON ERICH VS. BORNE

(Continued from page 33)

The Borne-Von Erich battle began in the ring (above) and ended in the parking lot. Kerry is helped back to the locker room while Borne slumps against a car (below). USWA officials were appalled by the behavior of both wrestlers.



have been suspended. My fight was with Matt Borne and nobody else. I just wish they would've let us finish it right there in the parking lot."

That, however, could have caused terrible damage to both wrestlers—and probably a few automobiles as well! As it was, Borne and Von Erich both spent hours afterward in separate trainers' rooms, having their bumps and bruises attended to.

"But I'm ready for more," Borne said. "In fact, I've got a good idea: Why don't we just *start* the whole damn thing in the parking lot and take it from there? It don't bother me.

"But I'll tell you what *does* bother me," Borne continued, "the USWA let him keep the Texas title and that don't make no sense at all. If he was suspended, the title should've been vacated. Oh well, maybe I'm just gonna have to go after him on my *own* terms."

Borne refused to elaborate on what he had in mind. He did, however, have a point: How could the USWA suspend a champion and not take away his title?

"We felt that taking away his title would be too great a punishment," Andrews said. "Although we didn't put a time limit on Von Erich's suspension, we felt it was a reasonable amount of time. Mr. Borne will get his chance at the title, as will all of the other top contenders."

"Reasonable amount of time?" Borne screamed incredulously. "The pig was back in the ring a week later! What a sham! I'm going after him in a way that'll make that parking lot brawl look like a Sunday school picnic."

"Borne had best be careful, or we'll be taking action against him," Andrews said, barely concealing his disgust over the parking lot battle. "That was far beyond the bounds of decency. Both men could have been seriously hurt, and there also could have been serious property damage. I understand that wrestlers get very intense, but they must have some control over their emotions."

"There was absolutely no control out there," Brazzel said. "I'm surprised I didn't get it worse. These two guys had a look in their eyes that was downright scary."

What made it worse was the wet, slippery conditions in the Sportatorium parking lot. The wrestlers were unable to get their footing and often flailed at one another.

"It was like fighting on ice," Von Erich said. "In a way, I guess, it was almost comical."

But Von Erich wasn't laughing about his suspension.

And Borne didn't feel too good when his spine cracked against the windshield. "I could've been paralyzed," Borne said.

And the USWA has been left wondering how to control the carnage.

"We can't prohibit Von Erich-Borne matches," Andrews said. "Maybe it's time to just put them in a cage."

On May 11, that's exactly where they belonged. ☐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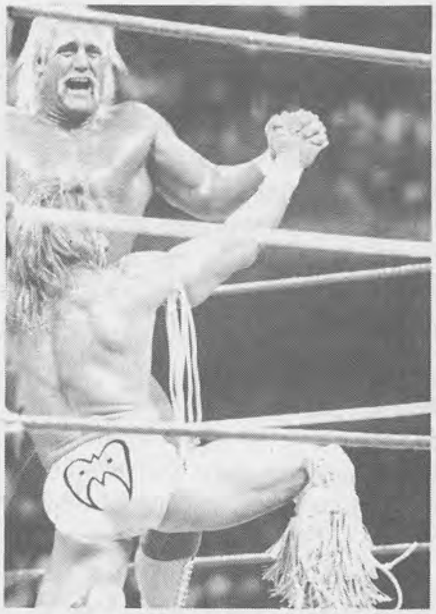
# ULTIMATE WARRIOR

(Continued from page 35)



**Rather than face Hogan again (top left and top right), Warrior is defending the World title against Curt Hennig (above) and Rick Rude (left). If there ever is a Warrior-Hogan rematch, it most likely will happen at WrestleMania VII.**

tract, they decided to make it sound as if it was their decision. Of course, it wasn't."

It is impossible to say why a superhuman like the Warrior would even need such a clause. After all, he is supposedly fearless, a muscleman willing to take on any opposition. But, apparently, the Warrior fears Hogan.

"The interesting thing about this whole deal is that the Warrior would have so much to gain from a Hogan rematch," WWF expert Thomas Pilliard said. "There's big bucks in that, but it would also solidify the Warrior's reputation. In my opinion, Hogan wouldn't win a rematch. I think the Warrior is being a bit too defensive in this case."

On the other hand, the Warrior came very close to losing to Hogan at WrestleMania VI. Hogan, in fact, had the Warrior pinned for over six seconds while referee Dave Hebner was unconscious. The Warrior was very fortunate to win the title.

And then there are the whispers still heard in WWF dressing rooms. Although the wrestling community at large acknowledges

the Warrior as champion, there is not the same respect for him that there was—and still is—for Hogan.

"He has to prove himself," one WWF wrestler said. "He has to get into that ring, beat Hogan a few times in rematches, take on all of the WWF's best wrestlers, just like Hogan did, and beat them convincingly. Until then, he's just another WWF World champion."

There are several other problems with the Warrior's image. He is not a good scientific wrestler, he relies completely on brawling, he has poor stamina and no aerial skills, and he has lost to lesser wrestlers.

He overcomes these shortcomings with his physique and primitive behavior. It is possible, though, that even the Warrior realizes his own weaknesses. Certainly, that would explain why he avoided a Hogan rematch.

"Fortunately for the fans, for Hogan, and for all of us, there's another provision in his contract that prohibits him from naming the same three wrestlers two years in a row," our WWF source said. "Because of that, there's a good chance we'll see Hogan vs. Warrior at WrestleMania VII.

"Of course, that's another reason why the WWF didn't put up a stink about the rematch. They feel Hogan will still be around next year and the hype will build to an unbelievable pitch. Let's face it, the WWF is not totally innocent in this case."

But the Warrior is the most guilty. These are serious charges being brought against the WWF World champion. He has purposely avoided the number-one contender to his title. He has denied a rematch to a man who wore the belt proudly for five years.

And he has revealed himself as a coward. Nobody ever questioned the Warrior's courage—until now.

Is The Ultimate Warrior the Ultimate Wimp? □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# DOOM

(Continued from page 36)

**On Doom's night of triumph, Butch Reed fought extremely well against Scott Steiner (above left and right). Long had his team convinced they would win the championship that evening.**

er two hours. It appears as if Simmons and Reed might not make it through the week.

Long, who has done nothing but shout orders, is full of energy.

**Monday, May 14:** Doom and Long are in Indianapolis. Long has put into effect the final stage of his prematch training program.

"Food, glorious food," Long sings.

Reed and Simmons will eat nothing but pasta and other complex carbohydrates for the next five days.

Reed, who lives on a diet of baked potatoes and barbequed chicken, isn't smiling.

"I got this far on my regular diet," Reed says. "I don't know why he's messing with me now."

**Tuesday, May 15:** Signs of dissension in the Doom camp. Long wants Reed and Simmons to wrestle with their masks on.

"Surprise," Long explains. "We're looking for the element of surprise."

Simmons and Reed don the masks for five minutes and return to their old, clumsy selves.

So much for the masks.

**Wednesday, May 16:** Dayton, Ohio. Simmons is here to wrestle Road Warrior Animal. It's no contest.

"No concern," Simmons says after the loss. "I was just working on a few new things for Saturday's match."

**Thursday, May 17:** An afternoon off. Reed and Simmons spend the day shopping at the mall. Long spends a few hours with reporters.

"I turned this team around," Long says, and nobody argues with him. Reed and Simmons walk into the room late in the afternoon and seem extremely happy.

"The babes," Reed says. "You gotta see the babes at that mall!"

So much for staying in training.

**Friday, May 18:** The day before the big match. Long checks the airline reservations to Washington, D.C., and runs into a snag.

"I want first class," Long shouts into the receiver. "You can't give the future NWA World tag team champions coach."

The flight is completely booked.

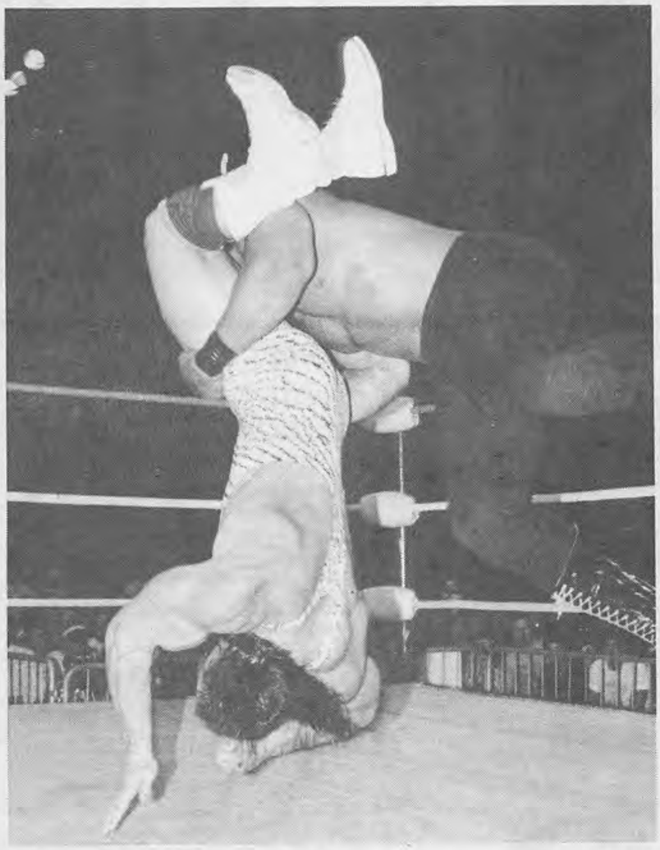
But first class or coach, they're a night away from glory.

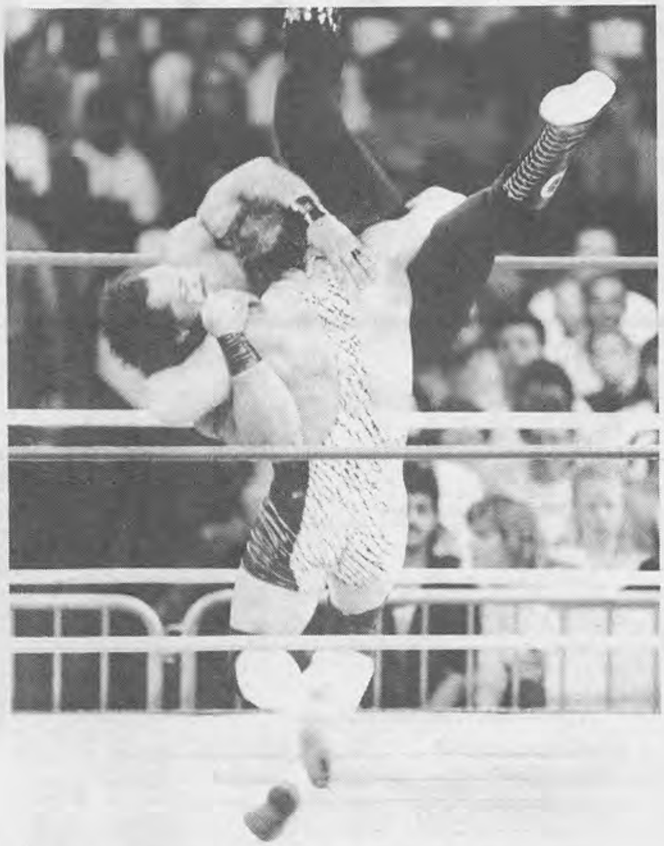
**Saturday, May 19:** Simmons and Reed are up early. They can't sleep. Long spends most of the day pacing the hotel lobby. Simmons and Reed go out for a walk.

All is quiet at the prematch meal. Simmons and Reed mean business. Their hour in the spotlight has arrived.

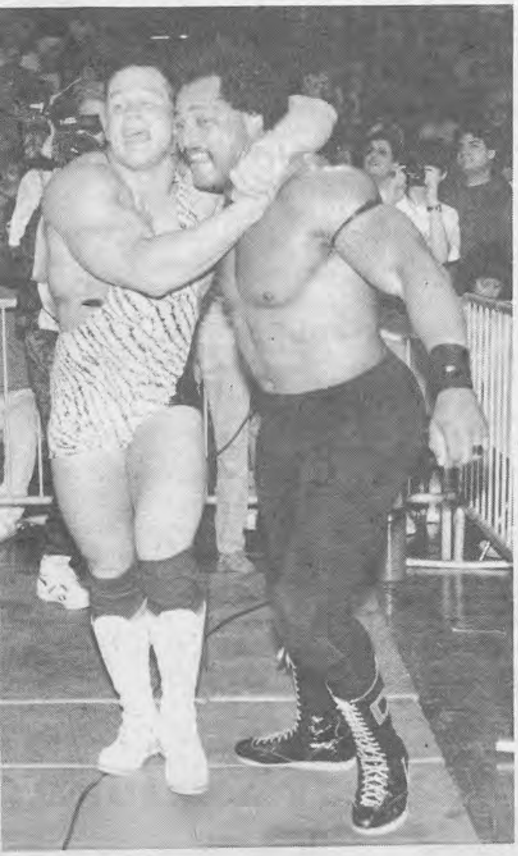
# STEINERS

*(Continued from page 37)*





**Not even the Frankensteiner (above) beat Doom, although Scott often had Ron Simmons at his mercy (top right and below).**



**Tuesday, May 15:** Rick visits the pet shop.

"Like to see the dogs," he explains.

Scott explains that there's work to be done.

"I'm concerned because we don't seem to be in the right frame of mind for such a big match. Man, this is pay-per-view TV, the whole country is gonna be watching, and I don't want us to embarrass ourselves. More than that, I don't want to lose these belts. We've worked too hard."

**Wednesday, May 16:** Rick is worried. He's heard a rumor that Woman might be at ringside for Saturday's match.

"I don't want her there," Rick says. "I don't ever want to see her again."

Scott calls the NWA offices and is told that Woman tried to get permission to be at ringside for the match. Fortunately, permission was denied.

"That would have been a big advantage for Doom," Scott says. "I don't think Rick's mind would have been on business."

**Thursday, May 17:** Scott experiences tightness in his right thigh.

"I'll work it out," Scott says, but his voice is full of concern. He knows that Doom has improved tremendously over the past months. He and Rick must both be 100 percent to win the match.

Hours later, Scott is still favoring the leg, but not quite as noticeably.

**Friday, May 18:** Scott is fine.

"Worked it out during the night," he says. "Just stay in a hot tub and let nature take its course."

At a prematch press conference, the Steiners talk about what they'll have to do to win the match.

"We just have to concentrate and not let Long beat us," Scott says. "As long as this is a two-on-two battle, we'll be fine."

**Saturday, May 19:** The Steiners' worst nightmare comes true: Long does get involved, long enough to distract the referee and allow Simmons to pull Rick off of Reed on what seemed to be a sure pin.

Seconds later, Reed pins Rick and the Steiners are former champs. □

# THE Wrestler

## TOP 10

1 **THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR**
*280, Queens, NY*
**(2) WWF World champion**

2 **RIC FLAIR**
*243, Minneapolis, MN*
**(1) NWA World champion**

3 **LEX LUGER**
*268, Chicago, IL*
**(4) U.S. heavyweight champion**

4 **RICK RUDE**
*246, Robbinsdale, MN*
**(6) No. 2 contender: WWF title**

5 **CURT HENNIG**
*235, Minneapolis, MN*
**(7) WWF Intercontinental champion**

6 **JERRY LAWLER**
*234, Memphis, TN*
**(5) USWA champion**

7 **LARRY ZBYSZKO**
*248, Pittsburgh, PA*
**(8) AWA World champion**

8 **DUSTY RHODES**
*302, Austin, TX*
**(-) No. 6 contender: WWF title**

9 **BILLY JACK HAYNES**
*245, Portland, OR*
**(-) No. 1 contender: PNW title**

10 **MATT BORNE**
*235, Portland, OR*
**(-) USWA Texas champion**

*Demolition*

## TAG TEAMS

1 **DEMOLITION**
*Combined weight: 585 pounds*
**(2) WWF World tag team champions**

2 **DOOM**
*Combined weight: 565 pounds*
**(4) NWA World tag team champions**

3 **RICK & SCOTT STEINER**
*Combined weight: 483 pounds*
**(1) No. 1 contenders: NWA tag title**

4 **THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS**
*Combined weight: 458 pounds*
**(-) U.S. tag team champions**

5 **THE HART FOUNDATION**
*Combined weight: 515 pounds*
**(6) No. 1 contenders: WWF tag team title**

6 **MIKE ENOS & WAYNE BLOOM**
*Combined weight: 518 pounds*
**(8) AWA World tag team champions**

7 **THE ROAD WARRIORS**
*Combined weight: 567 pounds*
**(5) No. 2 contenders: NWA tag team title**

8 **THE ROCKERS**
*Combined weight: 450 pounds*
**(7) No. 2 contenders: WWF tag team title**

9 **STEVE DOLL & REX KING**
*Combined weight: 477 pounds*
**(9) USWA tag team champions**

10 **RICKY SANTANA & CURTIS THOMPSON**
*Combined weight: 480 pounds*
**(-) PNW tag team champions**

## NWA

***World Champion:***
**RIC FLAIR**
*(C) 243, Minneapolis, MN*

**1—LEX LUGER**
*(1) 268, Chicago, IL*

**2—JUNKYARD DOG**
*(-) 305, Charlotte, NC*

**3—NORMAN**
*(2) 380, Saginaw, MI*

**4—MARK CALLOUS**
*(-) 320, Dallas, TX*

**5—MIKE ROTUNDO**
*(3) 245, Syracuse, NY*

**6—BAM BAM BIGELOW**
*(9) 368, Mt. Laurel, NJ*

**7—DOUG FURNAS**
*(-) 265, Commerce, OK*

**8—BRIAN PILLMAN**
*(4) 226, Cincinnati, OH*

**9—BARRY WINDHAM**
*(-) 263, Sweetwater, TX*

**10—STAN HANSEN**
*(-) 322, Borger, TX*

## WWF

***World Champion:***
**THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR**
*(C) 280, Queens, NY*

**1—CURT HENNIG**
*(1) 235, Minneapolis, MN*

**2—RICK RUDE**
*(2) 246, Robbinsdale, MN*

**3—EARTHQUAKE**
*(4) 462, Montreal, Quebec*

**4—BRUTUS BEEFCAKE**
*(-) 273, San Francisco, CA*

**5—BIG BOSSMAN**
*(10) 348, Cobb County, GA*

**6—DUSTY RHODES**
*(5) 302, Austin, TX*

**7—JAKE ROBERTS**
*(9) 246, Stone Mountain, GA*

**8—RANDY SAVAGE**
*(6) 245, Sarasota, FL*

**9—BAD NEWS BROWN**
*(-) 280, New York, NY*

**10—TED DiBIASE**
*(7) 247, Omaha, NE*

## AWA

***World Champion:***
**LARRY ZBYSZKO**
*(C) 248, Pittsburgh, PA*

**1—NIKITA KOLOFF**
*(1) 275, Moscow, Russia*

**2—THE TROOPER**
*(10) 243, Charlotte, NC*

**3—D.J. PETERSON**
*(6) 245, St. Joseph, MO*

**4—SGT. SLAUGHTER**
*(3) 310, Parris Island, SC*

**5—COL. DeBEERS**
*(7) 248, South Africa*

**6—JOHN NORD**
*(4) 316, Bozeman, MT*

**7—KOKINA MAXIMUS**
*(-) 340, Samoa*

**8—BRAD RHEINGANS**
*(-) 248, Appleton, MN*

**9—WAYNE BLOOM**
*(-) 266, Minneapolis, MN*

**10—MIKE ENOS**
*(-) 252, Minneapolis, MN*

## USWA

***USWA Champion:***
**JERRY LAWLER**
*(C) 234, Memphis, TN*

**1—MATT BORNE**
*(-) 235, Portland, OR*

**2—BILL DUNDEE**
*(2) 214, Melbourne, Australia*

**3—KERRY VON ERICH**
*(1) 260, Denton, TX*

**4—JEFF JARRETT**
*(4) 200, Hendersonville, TN*

**5—JOHN TATUM**
*(9) 236, Hollywood, CA*

**6—JEFF GAYLORD**
*(7) 255, St. Louis, MO*

**7—CHRIS ADAMS**
*(-) 228, Stratford, England*

**8—KEVIN VON ERICH**
*(8) 235, Denton, TX*

**9—MIKE AWESOME**
*(10) 290, Tampa, FL*

**10—JONNIE STEWART**
*(-) 242, Pacific Palisades, CA*

# OFFICIAL RATINGS

*Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board. Most Popular and Most Hated ratings are based on nationwide telephone and arena surveys of wrestling fans and on the volume and character of mail that comes to our offices. All other ratings are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category; certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue, while (C) indicates the wrestler was champion in that category last issue.*

## MOST POPULAR

1 **THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR**
*280, Queens, NY*
**Last issue: No. 1 Most Popular**

2 **HULK HOGAN**
*302, Venice Beach, CA*
**Last issue: No. 2 Most Popular**

3 **LEX LUGER**
*268, Chicago, IL*
**Last issue: No. 3 Most Popular**

4 **STING**
*260, Venice Beach, CA*
**Last issue: No. 5 Most Popular**

5 **DUSTY RHODES**
*302, Austin, TX*
**Last issue: No. 4 Most Popular**

6 **BIG BOSSMAN**
*348, Cobb County, GA*
**Last issue: No. 7 Most Popular**

7 **NORMAN**
*380, Saginaw, MI*
**Last issue: No. 6 Most Popular**

8 **TUGBOAT**
*407, Pittsburgh, PA*
**Last issue: unrated**

9 **SCOTTY THE BODY**
*235, Short Hills, NJ*
**Last issue: unrated**

10 **KERRY VON ERICH**
*260, Denton, TX*
**Last issue: unrated**

## MOST HATED

1 **RIC FLAIR**
*243, Minneapolis, MN*
**Last issue: No. 1 Most Hated**

2 **CURT HENNIG**
*235, Minneapolis, MN*
**Last issue: No. 5 Most Hated**

3 **BARRY WINDHAM**
*263, Sweetwater, TX*
**Last issue: unrated**

4 **EARTHQUAKE**
*462, Montreal, Quebec*
**Last issue: No. 2 Most Hated**

5 **RICK RUDE**
*246, Robbinsdale, MN*
**Last issue: No. 3 Most Hated**

6 **JERRY LAWLER**
*234, Memphis, TN*
**Last issue: No. 4 Most Hated**

7 **RICK MARTEL**
*236, Quebec City, Quebec*
**Last issue: No. 6 Most Hated**

8 **LARRY ZBYSZKO**
*248, Pittsburgh, PA*
**Last issue: unrated**

9 **BILLY JACK HAYNES**
*245, Portland, OR*
**Last issue: No. 10 Most Hated**

10 **TED DiBIASE**
*247, Omaha, NE*
**Last issue: No. 8 Most Hated**

For period ended May 30, 1990

## CUMULATIVE RATINGS

*These ratings are based on the past 10 issues of this magazine. We have examined our ratings for each of those issues—in our Top 10 and Tag Team categories only—and assigned each position a point value: 10 points for a number-one rating, nine for a number-two ranking, and so on down to one point for a number-10 rating. The point values for all wrestlers in the past 10 issues have been compiled, allowing a maximum of 100 points. Each issue we'll present the top five finishers in each category. While our regular ratings reflect the past month, these cumulative ratings give an indication of wider trends in the sport.*

### SINGLES

1—RIC FLAIR ........ 95 points
2—HULK HOGAN ........ 83 points
3—ULTIMATE WARRIOR ........ 81 points
4—LEX LUGER ........ 74 points
5—JERRY LAWLER ........ 41 points

### TAG TEAMS

1—DEMOLITION ........ 83 points
2—THE ROAD WARRIORS ........ 74 points
3—RICK & SCOTT STEINER ........ 67 points
4—MIDNIGHT EXPRESS ........ 38 points
5—MIKE ENOS & WAYNE BLOOM ........ 36 points

## PNW

***PNW Champion:***
**TITLE VACANT**
*See "What's Happening"*

1—**BILLY JACK HAYNES**
*(4) 245, Portland, OR*
2—**SCOTTY THE BODY**
*(2) 235, Short Hills, NJ*
3—**RIP OLIVER**
*(7) 245, Tampa, FL*
4—**BRIAN ADAMS**
*(C) 310, Honolulu, HI*
5—**THE GRAPPLER**
*(6) 280, parts unknown*
6—**AL MADRIL**
*(5) 231, Los Angeles, CA*
7—**SCOTT NORTON**
*(-) 360, Minneapolis, MN*
8—**LARRY OLIVER**
*(7) 235, Tampa, FL*
9—**THE EQUALIZER**
*(8) 250, parts unknown*
10—**BILL FRANCIS**
*(10) 300, Dallas, OR*

## ICW

***ICW Champion:***
**TONY ATLAS**
*(C) 247, Roanoke, VA*

1—**ROCHESTER ROADBLOCK**
*(2) 392, Rochester, NY*
2—**VIC STEAMBOAT**
*(1) 235, Honolulu, HI*
3—**JOE SAVOLDI**
*(-) 220, Parsippany, NJ*
4—**ERIC SBRACCHIA**
*(4) 240, Boston, MA*
5—**MIKE KALUHA**
*(3) 239, Honolulu, HI*
6—**TOM BRANDI**
*(8) 231, Philadelphia, PA*
7—**CHRIS MICHAELS**
*(-) 225, New York, NY*
8—**MR. POGO**
*(-) 310, Japan*
9—**RAY ODYSSEY**
*(9) 205, Palm Beach, FL*
10—**TOM PRICHARD**
*(10) 231, Philadelphia, PA*

**GEORGIA: Georgia All-Star champion**—Nick Busick; **1**—Mike Golden; **2**—Big Daddy; **3**—Shotgun Gauge; **4**—Randy Rose; **5**—Joel Deaton; **6**—Mr. Wrestling II; **7**—The Terminator; **8**—The Enforcer; **9**—John Michaels; **10**—Billy Black.

**LPWA: LPWA champion**—Susan Sexton; **1**—Black Venus; **2**—Shelly Francis; **3**—Bad Girl; **4**—Bambi; **5**—The Beast; **6**—Big Mo; **7**—Misty Blue Simmes; **8**—Lelani Kai; **9**—Heidi Lee Morgan; **10**—Tina Moretti.

**PWA: PWA champion**—Ricky Rice; **1**—Charlie Norris; **2**—Larry Cameron; **3**—Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie; **4**—Ken Patera; **5**—Tim Hunt; **6**—Jeff Warner; **7**—Tommy Ferrara; **8**—Steve Olsonowski; **9**—Doug Somers; **10**—Jerry Lynn.

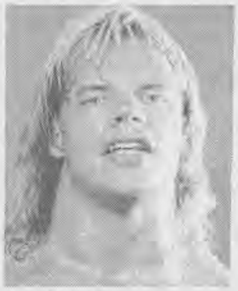
**PWF: PWF champion**—Steve Keirn; **1**—Robert Fuller; **2**—Kendall Windham; **3**—Jim Backlund; **4**—Lou Perez; **5**—Mike Graham; **6**—Terminator; **7**—Dennis Knight; **8**—Sgt. Rock; **9**—Powerhouse Parker; **10**—Coconut Kid.

**WWC: WWC champion**—Carlos Colon; **1**—TNT; **2**—Atkie Mulumba; **3**—Scott Hall; **4**—Invader I; **5**—Manny Fernandez; **6**—Leo Burke; **7**—Iron Sheik; **8**—Rick Valentine; **9**—Pierre Martel; **10**—Miguel Perez Jr.

# RATINGS ANALYSIS

**Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating nearly 200 wrestlers in 17 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.**

***To the mailbag!*** A lot of correspondence has been stacking up around here, and it's time to dig through the letters and address some of your comments and concerns.



*Lex Luger*

Daryl Harth of Glenwood, Minnesota, points out an error in a recent installment of the ratings. "In the NWA part, it says **Lex Luger** is from Chicago, Illinois, and in the Most Popular list it says he is from Venice Beach, California. Where is he really from?"

Luger is from Chicago, Daryl. A computer glitch caused the error that was repeated in many of our sister magazines as well.

"I think **The Ultimate Warrior** should be taken off the Most Hated list," writes Jimmy Mathis of Dalton, Georgia, echoing the opinions held by hundreds of other correspondents.

Well, Jimmy, the Warrior was there only for a brief period of time. The tide of fan sentiment turned briefly against the Warrior in the weeks leading up to WrestleMania VI. Why? It seems anyone who challenges **Hulk Hogan** is setting themselves up to be vilified by the fans. It is, in fact, a testament to Warrior's enormous popularity that while he was rated number 10 in our Most Hated ratings (in the June 1990 issue), he was also number three in the Most Popular category.

We received an interesting letter from Darryl Wood of Waterford, Michigan, who reports: "I have broken the ratings down by tonnage. These weights are from the June 1990 issue of *The Wrestler*. Here's how the federations rank in terms of total and average weights (with the average weights rounded off to the nearest pound.) 1—AWA: 3,037 pounds total, 276 pounds average; 2—WWF: 2,877 pounds total, 262 pounds average; 3—NWA: 2,838 pounds total, 258 pounds average; 4—PNW: 2,810 pounds total, 256 pounds average; 5—ICW: 2,687 pounds total, 244 pounds average; 6—USWA/CWA: 2,622 pounds total, 238 pounds average." Darryl also provides figures for Top 10 (2,630 total, 263 average), Most Popular (2,797 total, 280 average), and Most Hated (2,464 total, 246 average).

Mike Sgobba of LaPalma, California, writes: "One thing has always confused and upset me very much about your ratings page. Don't get me wrong, it is a great part of your magazine, but the way you rate certain wrestlers is unfair to the wrestlers and, in my view as a reader, downright stupid. I am talking about the fact that, in many situations, you rate non-champions higher than champions and other titlists."

Mike is referring to our own Top 10 and Tag Teams categories, in which we do rate contenders above champions from time to time (in the various federation categories, specific champions receive automatic top rankings). The reason for rating a contender higher than a champion? Well, let's use last issue's Tag Teams category as an example, in which AWA World tag team champions **Mike Enos** & **Wayne Bloom** were ranked number nine, while five other teams who were *not* holders of championships were rated higher.

*The Rockers*

Without getting into a lengthy explanation for the rating of each individual team, the general policy can be explained this way: When the AWA World tag champs defend their belts very infrequently against mediocre competition, they are going to drop in the ratings; when they defend more often against the AWA's top combinations, they'll rise higher. Meanwhile, teams like **Doom** and **The Rockers** (ranked eight and six, respectively, last month) were making big waves on the NWA and WWF tag team scenes, despite the fact that neither of them at the time held a championship.

Remember, the Top 10 and Tag Teams categories are compiled by the editorial board and are based on three factors: 1—won-lost records for the past month, 2—quality of opposition, and 3—the inherent skill of each wrestler or team. When you look at the ratings in those categories, remember all three of those factors are being called into play to determine an individual wrestler or team's ranking.

***The address for mail:*** We may not spend every installment of "Ratings Analysis" printing your letters, but we do spend time every day reading them. Let us know what you think about our ratings system, about our monthly analysis column, or anything else related to our ratings. Send your cards and letters to: "Ratings Analysis" c/o *The Wrestler,* Box 48, Rockville Centre, NY 11571. □

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